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JULY / AUGUST 2015

THE MASTERY OF MUCK

INTERVIEW WITH
DIRECTOR STEVE WOLSH

INTERVIEW WITH
**BRIAN
CUBAN**

AUTHOR OF
SHATTERED
IMAGE

Interview with

**KEN
THOMSON**

*Host of Las Vegas'
hottest
Sports X Radio*

THE
**ANTHONY
CUMIA**
SHOW



EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW
WITH
**MATT
SCANNELL**
*of VERTICAL
HORIZON*

**JENNA
CHAPPLE**

*Playbabe
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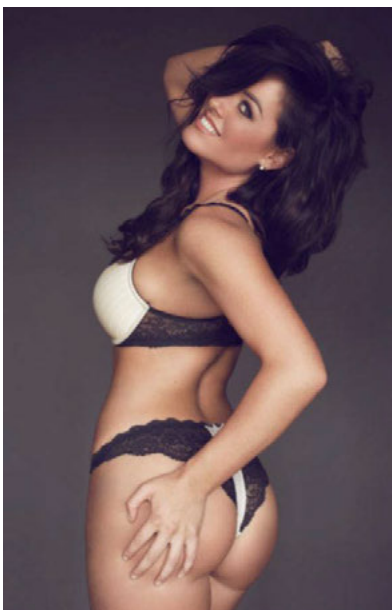
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Jenna Chapple

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Photography by Joel Flora*



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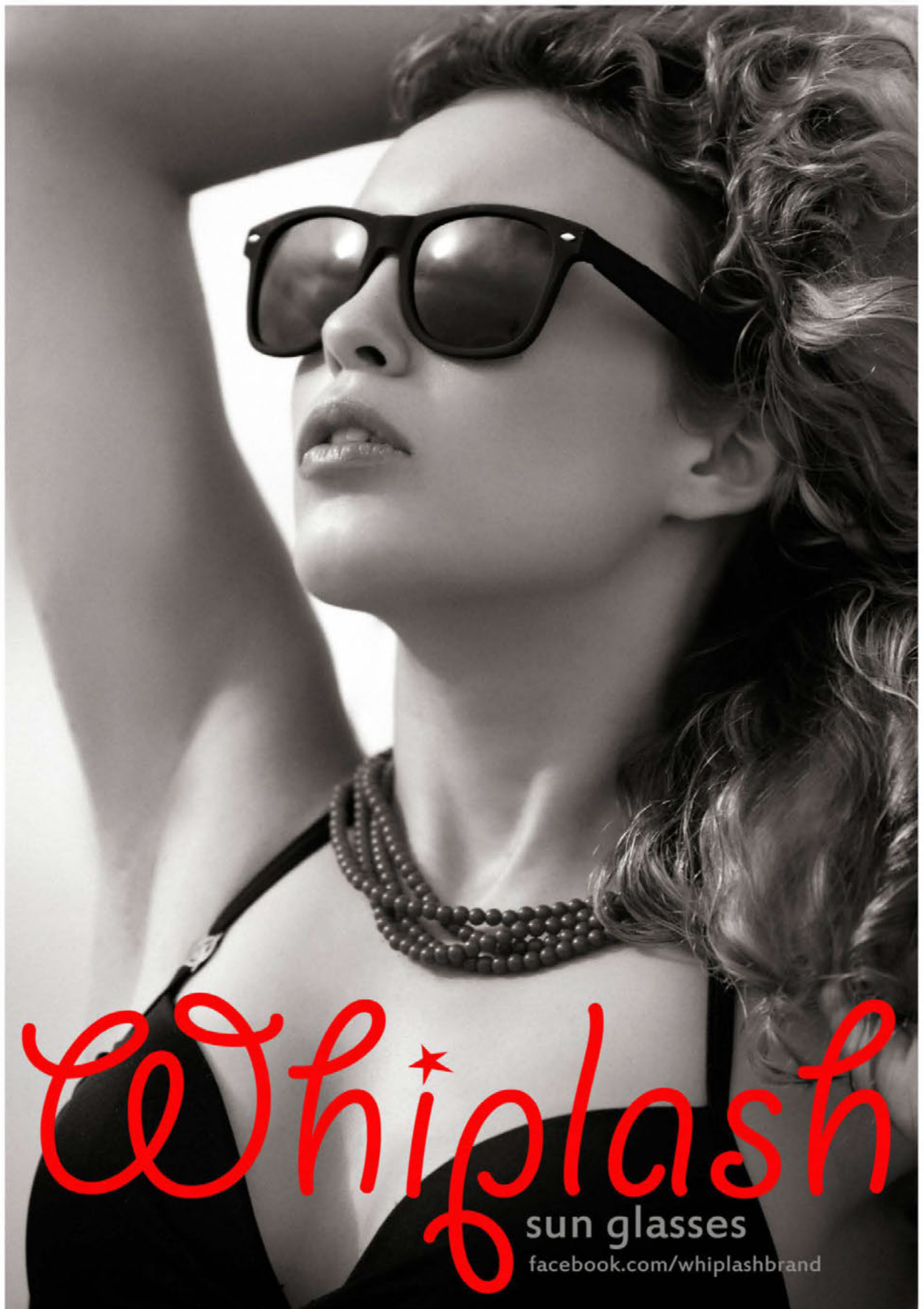
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Jennifer Corbin

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK DAUGHN









In the DOGCAGE

By Kennesaw Taylor

They say that dog is man's best friend. I guess that's true, but mess with a dog's woman and you'll find out that men taste pretty good with or without ketchup. If I'm on the couch with my best friend on my lap and the microwave dings, informing me of properly warmed nacho cheese and I move too quickly, my best friend might misunderstand my sudden movement in the general direction of my wife and take a blue cheese chunk out of my ass.

Let us define the dog. There are guard dogs. These hang around and guard things, mostly their food or the homes of drug dealers. They bark at anything real or imagined and keep us up late wondering if someone is trying to steal our boats and motorcycles.

Then you have hunting dogs. Hunting with dogs has pretty much disappeared so these dogs are pretty much perpetually unemployed. I guess all dogs are.

Dogs like mine are herding dogs. They have never had jobs and spend their days in the air conditioning laying on a couch they believe they own and watching cable television. Wheel of fortune is their favorite show.

Last but not least you have the foo foo dogs. These are generally small balls of fur trimmed to perfection by people who must have trimmed hedges in their former lives. They waddle along on legs too short and have delicate stomachs and annoying barks. Many of them will bite you, but only when you're not

looking. Even though they are the smallest they tend to have hummingbird asses and Pitt Bull mouths.

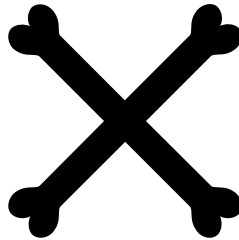
Have you noticed that in many cases dogs take on the appearances and attitudes of their owners or just maybe their owners take on those of the dogs.

So, most Mancaves have a spot especially reserved for a dog. Women and kids have no place in Mancaves, but dogs are welcome and can enjoy pizza, chips and maybe a beer while sprawling on the couch and possibly producing a pile of a byproduct that dogs produce too often.

After all aren't dogs simply dog crap factories? You put money in one end in the form of food and treats and then the aforementioned byproduct comes out the other. If my grandfather could see me following the southbound end of a northbound dog with a plastic bag turned inside out on my hand and then bending over and picking up what he leaves for me, he would turn over in his grave.


I have decided that my dog needs and full restoration on his Dogcave. After all, I tend to spend as much time in his as he spends in mine. Maybe he needs one of those small refrigerators so he can share his beer with me when my wife decides I need to visit him or have a sleepover in his cave. Usually I'm there alone, because we seldom get in trouble at the same time. Come to think of it, he can poop on the floor, drink beer and get sick on the couch, lick himself in inappropriate places in front of the preacher and then sexually assault the preacher's wife's leg and get away with all of it.

Oh crap, my wife just noticed me noting the preacher's wife's leg, I wonder if my dog needs a waterbed in his Dogcave.





Model: Krista Lane

 Paul Lowell

THE FESTIVAL OF

Dreams

Story and Photography by Kennesaw Taylor

For those of you who missed it, the Festival of Speed gathered in Miami Museum Park on Sunday April, 26. On the surface it was a beautiful park filled with amazing boats, motorcycles and automobiles, but the reality runs much deeper than that.

The festival began in 2004 and holds annual events in Miami, Orlando, St. Petersburg and Amelia Island. On a much deeper level this festival represents the dreams of man and his desire to possess beautiful and fast things. This desire is matched only by the desire to have a beautiful woman at one's side as he rides upon the steeds of the day.

In this way Mancave and The Festival of Speed are very much alike. There are few Mancaves with actual cars inside, but every Mancave contains such dreams and desires.

The festival brilliantly brought the past and future together combining automobiles long prized by its participants with their contemporary counterparts. The entries ranged from a 1936 coffin nosed Cord to a beautiful Pagani Huayra used as a centerpiece of the collection provided by Prestige Imports and Lamborghini Miami.

There was the matching



Burgerfi Lamborghini Aventador 50th and MTI racing boat capable of speeds up to 170MPH. Also in attendance was the Ulysse Nardin watch boat, Midnight Express, sporting 2228 screaming horsepower allowing it to, as they say, pass everything but a gas station.

There were go karts, golf carts, Ducaties and even a one passenger helicopter. There were cars we grew up with such as a 57 Chevy, Mustangs, Corvettes, a Super Bee and a collection of Volkswagens in every incarnation imaginable. There were Porsches, Lambos, Ferraris, Bentleys and McLaren's. There were wine tastings, cigar dealers and enough food to satisfy everyone from the young to the very old.

And the heat was in attendance, no I did not see any basketballs or players, but rather the stifling Miami heat we all know and love. To combat that heat the future and the present occupied the same space at the same time. If you looked out over Biscayne Bay at any time of the day you would find a HoverBoard or Flyboard skimming the cool waters.

The booth attending to this futuristic attraction was sponsored by Bayside Flyboard and presided over by a very interesting Captain Mike Monson. If you were adventurous enough you could come for the classic cars and leave having sampled a part of the future that is rapidly become the present. It looked like fun

and it certainly would chase away the Miami Heat. However, at my age it looked as if it might take ten years off of my life to try it.

They say you are only as old as you feel, if that's true, I been dead for three years. Still, if I were less than 500 years old, I would jump right on this thing.

My brains and hotdogs were fried. Why is it that I must always have a hot dog wherever I go? I hope my doctor isn't reading this. I took tons of good pictures of cars and those who owned and loved them.

A great time was had by all and we at Mancave dream of the future Festivals of Speed.

Kimberly Andert

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
MICHAEL ABRAMS

How would you describe yourself?

I would describe myself as a laid back, low maintenance girl-next-door. I have strong determination to chase my dreams and goals and I don't know when to give up. I'm a girl that prefers spending her time riding four wheelers and floating on the river verses getting my nails done and going to clubs/bars.

What trait do you like most about yourself?

I'm a very giving and compassionate person. I like to take care of other people/animals and usually take care of others before I take care of myself.

What traits do you dislike most about yourself?

Each trait has a purpose so I don't dislike any, but I need to work on my patience (I have major road rage).

What do you do to stay in shape? I played sports all my life & luckily still have a fast metabolism...so I am one of those people that will eat what you put in front of me, haha... But, I like to sign up for different classes & try new things. I participated in aerial arts and I think ballroom or swing dancing will be next.

What body part (s) do you find sexiest in a man?

I'm a sucker for blue/green eyes, strong arms and a nice tush.

What do you look for in a guy?

5 things: family oriented, sense of humor, selfless, responsible, and loyal.

What turns you off in a guy?

I don't appreciate men that are "one uppers" or overly cocky. If he doesn't have any ambition or goals I run away ASAP. Or if he drives a Mustang.... That's a turn off.

Your favorite Superhero?

Batman hands down.

What got you into modeling?

Never considered it until my friend Kayla said I should be a model back in high school. I started looking into it & 8 years later, here I am! Slowly taking over the local St. Louis industry completely freelance.







What's your favorite car?

I like to separate that question into 3 parts- Classic Car: Candy apple blonde 57' Chevy convertible. Affordable: Black 2001 Trans Am WS6 with a LS1. Not affordable (to me): Electric blue 2015 McLaren.

What's your all-time favorite movie which you would watch again and again and never get tired of?

It's a tie- Remember the Titans (I can recite this entire movie) or the 1940's version of Pride & Prejudice.

What's your favorite sport?

Baseball! I am a diehard St. Louis Cardinals fan.

Do you like gaming?

There was a time when no one saw me for a couple months because I was glued to Call of Duty... I had a chick username and could hear people giving me grief for being a female player, so I eventually got a mic and started harassing people back. It was great! I miss it and I miss my Batman player card, I worked hard on that!

Do you prefer a traditional romantic dinner date or do you like to hang out with the guy at a bar drinking beer, wings, shooting pool etc.?

Pass the beer & trashed/hot wings please!

What's the craziest pick up line you have ever heard?

I've only ever heard tacky ones, "May I get your picture? I want to show Santa what I want for Christmas." "Are you from Tennessee? Because you're the only ten I see!"

How was your experience shooting with Michael Abrams?

Working with Michael is absolutely wonderful. In this industry there are people you work with & that's it, and then there are people like Michael, that you work with THEN go get sushi with them or go other places because they're now a friend. Michael does an extraordinary job making sure you feel comfortable while shooting and he'll even help you with posing or move a stray hair (after receiving permission). He doesn't just limit his work to "models only", and as a female, I can really appreciate that. Michael does a fantastic job showcasing each woman's beauty.



ANTHONY CUMIA'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

By Michelle Sports 'X'

This July will mark the anniversary of Independence Day, in more ways than one, for the self-professed 'exiled radio host', Anthony Cumia, known around the world as the other half, of the once popular SiriusXM radio show, *Opie & Anthony*. For it was last July, that Anthony Cumia was fired by SiriusXM, for making a series of tweets in what the *New York Times* reported as "racially-charged and hate filled", and what SiriusXM would ultimately deem as 'abhorrent [and] wholly inconsistent with what SiriusXM represents'.

Okay, correct me if I am wrong, but isn't SiriusXM, the network that is often identified with Howard Stern who is often associated with a sort of 'anything goes' personality? One has to wonder, what exactly do executives at SiriusXM think their network stands for? Somehow puritanical and Howard Stern, do not necessarily seem to be synonymous nor is political correctness that which one is likely to associate the network with. At least that's in my humble opinion. Be that as it may, Anthony was fired nonetheless for what SiriusXM executives, believed was inappropriate behavior.

According to *Rolling Stone* magazine, soon after Anthony was fired, several of his fans signed a petition to demand he be reinstated. Of course, whether or not Anthony would even consider going back, to the network is anybody's guess. In fact, when, I asked if he were to be offered a network spot, would he consider it, he shared that he did not know if he would want to let go of his newfound freedom. Anthony believes that Internet radio has given him the ability to make a declaration of independence and the freedom he has with his new show, *The Anthony Cumia Show*, is something he deems priceless.

On the day I was invited to interview Anthony, to learn more about him and what he's been doing since he was let go from SiriusXM, he was about to go 'head to head' with Ladd Everitt, about gun violence. [A summary of May 13, 2015 show, as well as, Ladd's bio can be found at Anthony's website, AnthonyCumia.com.] I arrived at the studio, which by the way, is currently set up in the basement of Anthony's home on Long Island, a few minutes early so I could tour the facility and meet the production crew. Needless to say, Anthony's basement is no ordinary basement, and if I told you that his basement aka ultimate mancave is nothing short of magnificent, that would be an understatement. So too, are the grounds outside, where Anthony's Director of Public Relations and Marketing, Erin Donohue, told me was the location for the previous day's show. Truly, if you are going to be exiled, Anthony's home is a prime destination point. I cannot imagine anyone who makes the trip out there, would ever want to leave.

So just what was it that lead me to want to interview, Anthony Cumia? And what was it I wanted to know? Well, for starters, I wanted to know how he was doing, and more than likely I had planned on asking him about his firing, the state of the world as we know it, and all that serious stuff about social media, how it can be so treacherous and what he learned about Twitter. Yet, all that went out the window, when I settled in to watch the show. I forgot about my questions that were going to be focused on the past, and found myself immersed in the present, and so impressed at the way Anthony had not only rebounded but was apparently thriving.

From the moment, the show began, which according to Anthony's site, 'begins with a vocally challenged Ant telling us about the after show taping with Stuttering John' I found myself laughing. I was less concerned with what had happened to 'cause Anthony's firing from SiriusXM, as I was focused on the present day show. The show is hysterical, because quite frankly Anthony is hysterical. Even with a raspy, 'Suzanne Pleshette' voice, Anthony was able to show, that although he might have been an integral piece to a solid partnership that spanned well over two decades he certainly does not need anyone by his side, to have him command an audience. Truly, he is at the top of his game, and his solo show, is exceptional. He managed to take a very serious topic, and keep it fun and entertaining. Although he may not necessarily agree with Ladd Everitt, he allowed Ladd to say his peace, in an open forum where although it was Anthony's stage to set, he did not need the spotlight. It's a round table, and both Anthony and Ladd, were on equal footing, where neither dominated the conversation.

After the show was over, despite his awareness that a cold was coming on, and despite his horse voice, Anthony took the time to talk with me. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to meet a man who has obviously experienced so much in his life. The photos on the walls, where he is hanging with rock stars, movie stars, and superior athletes tell only a piece of the story, of this man's life. During the time, we spoke, I was able to learn a lot about Anthony by the way he treated me, and how he handled my questions. He was down to earth, intelligent, respectful, and above all very real.

Anthony's level of awareness, both of himself and those around him, as well as, the world in which we live, place him in a keen position to help educate others. His passion for New York City, his comfort behind the microphone, and his personable demeanor, can have you feeling as though you're hanging out with one of your favorite family members. Of course, just like with all family members, you might not agree with his raw sense of candid talk, and you might not agree with him on everything else, but it's hard not to admire him for his conviction, and passion. It's also hard not to root for his success as he makes his way through the relatively new terrain of Internet radio.

While we talked, Anthony shared with me that he had some insecurities about doing a solo show. He found himself wondering if anyone would even be out there listening to him. He expressed that he experienced a deep sense of loss when he was let go, and realized he was no longer part of the partnership that had meant so much to him for nearly twenty years. Yet, despite these insecurities, Anthony did decide to make a go of it. He shared with me that his level of confidence has gotten stronger, with each new show. The callers are calling, the fans keep coming, and he's excited about the prospect of a new studio, which will be located in New York City.

So to sum it up, what's Anthony Cumia doing since he got fired from SiriusXM

close to a year ago? He is doing what he's always done, making people laugh, enjoying life, and putting on a top notch radio program. The only difference now is, Anthony's show is solo, and he has freedom to be himself, whether he's on or off air. Be sure to catch the show, which airs live during the hours of 4-6 pm EST, via AnthonyCumia.com. That time slot, by the way, was chosen because Anthony 's pretty sure he'll be able to be up in time to make the bell. Works for me, and if I can't listen live, I'll be certain to catch the archived episodes that are available at his site.

Oh and just one more thing, be sure to follow the show @TheCumiaShow on Twitter!





Q&A

How would you describe yourself?

People would say I am a kid at heart. I am goofy, silly, and clumsy! I also have a very sensitive side to me. I am fun-loving, spontaneous, and down to earth chick who likes to kick back and have a good time.

What trait do you like most about yourself?

That I am too giving sometimes. I always put other people before myself. Never take someone's kindness for weakness.

What traits do you dislike most about yourself?

I am so indecisive about everything. I literally will sit in line at a smoothie bar for an hour trying to decide which flavor to get! Can I get all of them mixed into one? lol

What do you do to stay in shape?

Have lots of sex... just kidding ;) Believe it or not, I've never been to a gym, I just eat really healthy and have good genes!

What body part (s) do you find sexiest in a man?

I really love when a man has big hands and feet. It's just manly to me, and you know what they say about big feet!

What do you look for in a guy?

I look for a guy who isn't afraid to show his sensitive side. I love a man who can help cook, clean, and do chores around the house. It shows he cares and can do his part too!

Sarah Lou

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON PARKER





What turns you off in a guy?

I can't stand when a guy is lazy, or can't take control of a situation.

Your favorite Superhero?

I love spider man! Like who else can shoot webs and climb buildings...that's so cool its creepy!

What got you into modeling?

I must say it was definitely peer pressure. Everyone would always tell me I should model ever since I was a little girl. One day I did an online contest and BAM! It was that easy as 1-2-3.

What's your favorite car?

Can it be a JEEP? Because those are sexy! They are built for off road riding ;)

What's your all-time favorite movie which you would watch again and again and never get tired of?

Like I said I am a little kid at heart. Lion King is one of my all-time favorite movies! Its just so much fun and brings back a lot of memories!

What's your favorite sport?

Baseball! I come from the city of baseballs BEST FANS! There's just something about baseball and a cold beer that go so good together!

Do you like gaming?

I do like gaming! I just wish I knew how to use the controls all at once! Let's just say I'm one of the guys!



THE INTERVIEW WITH KEN THOMSON: A ROAD WELL TRAVELED

By Michelle Sports 'X'

**KEN THOMSON IS
HOST OF THE HOTTEST
SPORTS SHOW IN VEGAS
FEATURED NIGHTLY AT
LAGASSE'S STADIUM &
BROADCAST NATIONALLY
ON THE YAHOO SPORTS
NETWORK**

There are days when I wake up and I wonder just how I got to where I am, and when I take the time to look through the retrospective lens, it all makes perfect sense. Of course, some days it makes more sense than others, but for the most part my journey thus far, seems to be somewhat on course and the ultimate destination has forever been the same. Wherever I'm supposed to be, that's exactly where I am. I know it might sound confusing but trust me, according to my niece, it will all make sense if you do not

think about it.

The morning I sat down to interview Ken Thomson, the star of one of the hottest sports shows in Las Vegas, was one of those mornings I had decided not to think about it. It, being my journey and why I was where I was, let alone where I was heading next. I was too busy enjoying the moment, rather than wanting to focus on what landed me to where I was, or where I might be next week. In addition, my main focus on this particular Sunday morning was Ken Thomson's journey, not mine. Besides learning about what lead Ken to where he is now, I wanted to pick his brain about something that has been baffling me for quite some time pertaining to fantasy sport and sports betting. In particular, I wanted to learn his thoughts as to when people engage in fantasy sport using real money, in his opinion, is it not a form of sports betting? Who better than Ken, one of the Vegas elite insiders, could give me an education on sports betting, and help

me to understand what many in Vegas refer to as, 'the game within the game.' Ken's a professional handicapper, and skilled sports bettor, and in addition, to his current show on Yahoo Sports, Ken had hosted a national fantasy sports show on Sirius XM Fantasy.

Ken was set to call me after he returned back to his home from church. The interview was strategically timed to occur just after the March Madness was over, and Ken had some time to breath before getting into the crux of the NBA and NHL finals. We had both set aside an hour to talk about his journey that lead him to his current position as the host at Lagasse's Stadium nightly sports show. Lagasse's Stadium, by the way is touted as the ultimate mancave in Vegas. If you've not been there, you may want to check it out and while their check out the signature, 'Bamwich.' Lagasse's Stadium is located at The Grand Canal Shoppes, 3325 S Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, Nevada. This is where Ken's studio is, and where he hosts his show that is broadcast live M-F, 7-10 PST.

What follows is a summary of my interview with Ken Thomson, the host of 'Sports X Radio' a national sports show, broadcast nationally on the Yahoo Sports Network, live from Lagasse's Stadium, in Las Vegas, Nevada:

MSX: What are your some of your first sports memories you can recall?

KT: My first memories involving sports include being with my dad talking about sports, as well as, being in front of the television and going to live games. My dad had a passion for New York teams. He grew up rooting for the Brooklyn Dodgers, and he loved the Knicks and the New York Rangers. He would tell me stories about the games he remembered. He would also educate me about the games and the players. We would spend lots of time talking about sports when I was a kid.



My dad took me to my first basketball game, and my first baseball game. I can still remember going to those games. I remember the scores, the players, and the amazing plays I witnessed. For example, I remember going to see my first hockey game at Madison Square Garden, when the Boston Bruins beat the New York Rangers 5-0. I cannot say that it ended the way I would have liked, but being at the game with all the excitement, was a memory I will never forget.

MSX: So since you grew up outside of New York City, are you a fan of New York teams?

KT: I am a fan of the New York Giants, New York Mets, New York Knicks and the some of the 'local' collegiate teams. My passion for those teams might have stemmed from going to games with my dad. In addition, I also root for the Indianapolis Colts. The Colts are, and will forever be, my favorite NFL team. I chose to root for the Colts and go against my dad, who was a Jets fan when the Colts played the Jets in Super Bowl III. Super Bowl III was one of the first games I remember, and I can still recall how shocking the outcome was. Back then there was the NFL and the AFL, and although I did not understand that the Colts were the favored team, and knew nothing about the odds I picked them as my team. All I remember was that I wanted the team with the horseshoe on their helmets. My dad wanted the New York Jets to win. He kidded me that I picked the team that was supposed to win, but in truth I had no idea who was supposed to win. I just liked their helmets. Back then, before that matchup most everyone thought that the AFL teams were joke but the Jets ended up winning the game and it sort of established the AFL as a serious league. No longer were the AFL teams considered less than equals. The Jets victory was a huge turning point in the NFL.

I still rooted for the Colts, even though they lost and even though we lived outside of New York. It was not that I did not like the Jets, but I just liked the Colts more. As I said, it all had to do with the helmet and Johnny Unitas, who became one of my favorite players. When you're little, those sorts of things can matter and I was a little kid. I have rooted for the Colts ever since, even when they moved to Indianapolis.

During the interview, Ken's passion for the game and his memory was very apparent. This is one of the reasons why he has such a dedicated fan base. Listening to him share his memories, feeling his energy transfer through the phone is electric. His charisma and energy is unlike any other sports personality I know. He's truly one of the best in the sports industry.

MSX: So what happened when the Colts moved to Indianapolis? Where you upset by the move?

KT: That's right the Colts were in Baltimore at the time I began rooting for them. They moved to Indianapolis and disappointed a lot of their fan base. It was difficult because I always just knew them as the Baltimore Colts. It was likely more difficult for the people in Baltimore. At the time the team moved, I was on an aircraft carrier in the middle of the Indian Ocean. I found out about the move when I got a letter from my father informing me that the team moved. Dad shared his disdain for the team electing to move in the middle of the night. He sent me a photo from the New York Times that showed a caravan of moving trucks. I was not going to stop rooting for them though. They were my team. I am loyal like that. I stuck with the Colts, and it's a 'for better or worse' relationship. It may sound old fashioned but I'm loyal like that.

MSX: What do you think would happen if the San Diego Chargers were to move out of San Diego, up to Los Angeles?

KT: Honestly, I do not think that would happen. I think it would be unwise for San Diego to allow the Chargers to leave, especially if it were over a matter of wanting a new facility. The San Diego Chargers have a very positive fan base. Even though the team originated out of Los Angeles, San Diego fans adopted the team right away, and the team has a sense of belonging there. I think Los Angeles would be better off having the Rams go back there, or having its own expansion team. Los Angeles is sort of a melting pot. If not the Rams, then a new team would be better there.

MSX: Tell me a little bit about your journey and how you got to be the face behind the show that airs as the ultimate mancave in Vegas.

KT: Sure. I did not take a

conventional route into the sports and entertainment world. Yet, I always loved sports so landing a job that has to do with having passion for sports is the perfect job for me. When I was younger I would gravitate toward playing, watching, talking, doing everything and anything involving sports. I was not necessarily well rounded, but I was passionate for sports, and that's pretty much all I knew.

Not only did I love sports but I also loved to see if I could predict which teams were going to win. I loved knowing the odds and seeing if I could predict which teams would win, who would have a good game, and what the total score would be. I was fifteen the first time a bookie approached me to bet on a game. I loved betting on sports, and I still do. I have learned to be disciplined about betting, and I take sports betting very seriously. I think it requires a great amount of skill to become a professional handicapper and/or sports better.

I got involved in broadcasting when I was in the Navy. I was the person who got information off the Teletype and I had my own television show on the ship. When I got out of the Navy, I settled in San Diego, and eventually moved to other parts of California.

While in California I was asked to do the 'play by play' announcing of UC-Riverside basketball games, and eventually I did a show with Bob Golic, who is a former American college and professional football player. Most people do not know that he played college football with Joe Montana while he was at the University of Notre Dame, but he did. When he was in the pros, he played for the New England Patriots, Cleveland Browns, and the Los Angeles Raiders. I was very fortunate to befriend him, and that friendship opened up doors for me that would land me a job as his co-host, and future jobs in the sports world.

Ultimately I would settle in Nevada. Sports betting are legal in the State of Nevada. While living California, I would travel to Nevada with my friends, often. When I met my ex-wife Karen, she lived here in Vegas. It made sense for me to move here when we got married and our daughter Kiara was born and raised here. Believe it or not, Nevada including Las Vegas is a



beautiful place to raise a family.

MSX: Do you think Vegas are a good place to raise a family?

KT: I do. I love it here. Sure it's known around the world as Sin City, but as Randall Cunningham, the pastor where I attend church would say, every city, is 'Sin City' if you want to be honest. Just this morning, Randall shared that Vegas are just like any other city; it's just that the sins are not necessarily covered up. We have a very close-knit community here in Vegas, and we work together to build on the talented people who are here. There are cultural events, family outings, and wonderful schools. Nevada is a beautiful state, and Las Vegas is a dynamic place. It's not only a great place to raise a family but it's a great sports hub.

MSX: Speaking of sports, I have wanted to ask you about your thoughts on fantasy sports vs. gambling. What do you think about fantasy sports? Are they a form of sports betting? I know legally they are thought to involve skill, and that supposedly makes them different than sports betting, but I'm not so sure I agree with the differential.

KT: I cannot see the difference. To me both fantasy sports and sports betting are a form of sports betting and that would make it the same thing. Both involve placing a

wager on a player's performance and/or a team's. In Vegas, we refer to sports betting as 'the game within the game' and playing against the line can make all sports exciting. Even the most boring game, becomes interesting when you're watching the score to see if a team covers and /or if the total points go over the predicted line.

As with all vices, it can be problematic if a person does not exercise self-control. It's not as though fantasy sports is not something people cannot become addicted to. Just like smoking, drugs, alcohol and other things, it can be harmful if caution and prudence is not exercised. So what's the difference? I do not see any.

MSX: What about social



issues in sports? Other than promoting gambling in a meaningful way, does your show focus on any social issues? For example, do you focus on the domestic violence, or the steroid problems on your show?

KT: Honestly, I try not to do that. I like to focus on the games and our show is meant to provide information about the upcoming games, so that people are educated before they bet. Our fans are listening because they not only want to be entertained but they also want to learn about the teams, our predictions and we do not have time to deviate and talk about drama plaguing the leagues unless that drama affects the odds. It is very important to me that I use the airtime in a constructive manner.

Staying clear of dramas is also part of the reason I do not take callers throughout the show. It's not that I do not wish to give fans the opportunity to speak but I prefer to speak with fans after the show, off the air. That's because sometimes when a caller calls in, the topic can change and we can get sidetracked. In addition, there might be times when callers are acting silly, and we need to be mindful and respectful to all listeners. It's just not the type of show that we can allow ourselves to get off topic.

MSX: Switching gears a bit, what do you think about Johnny Manziel and his recovery?

KT: I like Johnny Manziel as a player, and I want him to succeed. I know what its like to struggle with self-control and I, too have had my share of obstacles to overcome. I can see myself in Johnny Manziel. I am rooting for him.

Also, I just wanted to say I would like to thank God for where I am and for the forum I have to be able to reach others. If I could reach out to Johnny, I would tell him that it took a strong man to admit himself to a rehabilitation program, and I would tell him that its all about what matters inside. Of course, I am nobody to judge, and I try not to judge others. I do my best to stay up to speed on what's going on with the professional athletes, and try not to get sucked in to the social issues that can at times cloud the airways.

For example, issues like Alex Rodriquez and his return to baseball. Players that are all about themselves and are so over the top with how much money they make, it's a bit disgusting to be honest. That being said, I know Johnny Manziel acts like a showoff and there's the whole 'Show me the money' thing, but I think that's more of an act, than a deep seedy greedy person. He seems to me to be more like the 'class clown' as opposed to having a mean spirit.

I do not feel that way with Alex Rodriquez. It's not that I am rooting for him to fail, but I do not have a passion to root for him to win, either.

There are so many people struggling, and when I see a player like Alex who had everything but threw it all away, and then lies to the American public and his fans, it's just a bit disheartening. I try not to judge, but when someone compares Alex Rodriquez to Willie Mays but does not take into account that Alex cheated, and Willie Mays did not cheat, it's just not even worth talking about. In a sense, comparing Alex Rodriquez to any of the greats is futile, because his stats are all skewed as a result of his cheating both himself and the game of baseball.

MSX: What about how sports have changed, and the role of social media. How has social media changed sports, as you knew it when you were growing up?

KT: I think social media is amazing. While I'm old school, and I like radio and sports talk, I do think social media can compliment a radio show. People like you have showed me how to make twitter an interactive part of a radio show. I would never have connected with some of the people I have had on my show, if not for you and Twitter.

MSX: Thanks so much for sharing. It's been my pleasure learning more about your show and your passion for sports. In closing I would like to ask you what your favorite sports movies are and what else you might wish to share, as far as special people you might have interviewed?

KT: My favorite sports movies would be 'Friday Night Lights' and 'Remember the Titans' and both come to mind because of the lessons they teach.

Sport can add so much to the lives of so many and these movies depict real life situations and circumstances that involve racism, alcoholism, and humanity. I happen to have been blessed in meeting so many wonderful people in the world of sports. My work at ESPN-U and my work at Yahoo Sports, coupled with my past jobs have allowed me opportunities to talk about so many issues we all face. I've met and interviewed so many awesome people while working here in Vegas. People like Manny Pacquiao, and Al Bernstein were great guests.

When I met Tim McGraw, here in Las Vegas; we talked about his performance in the movie, Friday Night Lights, as well as his life journey. His dad being a major league ball player, his life with his own career, and struggles he faced are no different than the struggles you or I may have faced.

People tend to treat athletes and celebrities like they walk on water. In truth they are no different than us as far as what they might endure. My favorite sports movies were based on real life stories. Denzel Washington, and the other actors in these movies portrayed real life situations that I could relate to. These movies invoked compassion, passion, and showed just how important the teamwork, and football can be to an entire community.

It was a pleasure to interview Ken to learn more about his journey and what lead him to his current role at Lagasse's Stadium. If you are in Vegas, you might want to stop by and say 'hi' . . . and don't forget to have the 'Bamwich.'

Ken Thomson is a professional handicapper, and the host of Sports X Radio. His show in Las Vegas, is broadcast out of Lagasse's Stadium, and airs out on the Yahoo Sports Network. You can follow him on Twitter at @KenThomson87, and the show account @SportSXRradio. For more on the show, visit www.sportsxradio.com and don't be surprised if you see him on 'Sports Jeopardy' ... oh and if you're a betting man, you might want to take the 'Over' on his chances of being the champion.





Stephy Marie

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAYE OTT





RIDE INSANE



"WOKE UP TO THE SOUND OF POURING RAIN, THE WIND WOULD WHISPER AND I'D THINK OF YOU . . . " ~ I REMEMBER YOU, SKID ROW

For those of us who remember what life was like before Facebook, the miracle of connecting with my childhood friend, will likely be prevalent. Nowadays people are able to stay in touch. Kids move and they simply connect on social media, and share about their new school. For me, back when I was twelve, there was no way to stay in touch. The night I left my home, never to return again was traumatic. I would end up in two foster homes, and eventually move to a town about a two-hour drive from where I had grown up. For the most part, I had lost all connection with my formative years. There were no photographs, no family get-togethers, there was nothing. It was as though I had never existed, on paper anyway.

Yet, I always remembered my friends from childhood, especially Bobby, my boy next door. Needless to say, I was thrilled that he too, remembered me.

The first time we connected was just a matter of an email message sent via Facebook. The second time we connected was via an instant message chat. We ended up staying online for hours talking about everything and anything. Bobby shared that he had just come in from a concert, and ironically the band he had gone to see was one that my brother-in-law was the lead singer. He was shocked to learn I was related to someone whom was included in his 'best of the best' when it came to rock stars, but he assured me that this was not the reason he would like to stay in touch. He was intrigued by our differences. I was also interested in how we had evolved separately, and was interested to learn more about the paths he had chosen. Bobby's honesty was refreshing, and yet there was something sad about his revelation. If he were reading this right

by Michelle Sports X

now, he would probably say, "Sad, I did not know you found it sad. I would say it was more real than sad." Yet, to me it was sad. "I do drugs and go to strip clubs. That's what I do," is what he said to me when I asked him about his career. One might think he was kidding, but he was not kidding. He meant it. "I am a substitute teacher, and I tutor in Drug Court," was my response. Clearly we were on different paths when it came to our professional choices.

If I were being completely honest, I might not have been able to get so close to Bobby if it not had been for the childhood connection, and the reality that he was all the way in Atlanta. Atlanta was a far enough distance from where I was, and his risky lifestyle did not seem to be something that would come into my world. I did not judge him for doing drugs, but it was not as though I would be able to socialize with him had he of been living close by. Yet, he was not living close by and our childhood memories, the realness of our nature, and our desire to connect to a time that was, seemed to be what drove our desires. It was nothing sexual, no intimate attraction like that, but more so a chance to return to the innocence which, for both of us was buried a long time ago. In fact, at that time I probably never even knew there was a time when I may have been innocent. Until I connected with Bobby, I had lost all sense of realization that I ever was a child. For surely I had been an adult my entire life, at least in theory anyway.

I cannot remember if Bobby had a girlfriend

at the time we connected. If so, he may have had more than one. Yet, it did not matter. He was not about to let a woman control his life, at least not to the point that it would stop him from connecting with me or anyone else for that matter. If Bobby did one thing right, it was being himself. That 'self' was pretty adamant about doing what he wanted, and connecting with me was something he wanted. He would reach out at all hours of the night, and I would soon learn that this was his favorite time. He was convinced he was nocturnal and there were times we would talk for hours about anything and everything. Of course we were not talking per se, as opposed to exchanging messages in real time via Facebook. I still remember Bobby's messages about how everything happens for a reason, and he said, "Like now, you and me talking the way we are, there's a reason for it. We just do not know what it is, but there is a reason and someday we'll know."

My conversations with Bobby became something I looked forward to. I have little doubt we were unlike any other adults whom happened to connect on Facebook, and were sharing about their lives, only for us we had not gone to high school together. I was whisked away during the Seventh grade, so it was not as though I was the girl that he had dated. He was not my first love, at least not yet anyway. There is no way of knowing if he would have been, because my life as I knew it, was aborted when I was in the Seventh grade. Memories of being taken away in a police car, craziness of my father's arrest, and all the horrible abuse that had transpired were distant memories that now seemed to be resurfacing. It's not as though I had never talked about my childhood with anyone before. Yet, what made talking with Bobby about it so different was that he remembered me. He knew the girl I was. He was the boy who had kicked me when I was in Fourth grade. I still remember the humiliation I felt when our Fourth grade teacher called out to us and asked us to 'Stop playing footsies under the desk.' As far as I recalled, I was not playing footsies. No, I was getting kicked. Yet, justice did not prevail and I was guilty without any chance to defend myself. This experience is probably one of many that lead me to pursue a path studying our justice systems. Bobby had absolutely no recollection of

our Fourth grade shaming. However, he did remember being shamed in Fourth grade. Difference between Bobby and me though, he was shamed everyday. It was his norm. "I hated her." He told me, when we talked about our Fourth grade teacher. My response, "Me too." Bobby hated her because in his eyes she was cruel. No doubt being made to take your desk out to the hallway, practically everyday was not something any Fourth grade student would look back on and consider joyous. I hated her because she was cruel. She was mean. I was a good student, but for whatever reason I was not considered as good as my older sister. "Why can't you be more like your sister?" I still do not know what she meant by that other than my sister was known for getting straight A's. Yet my grades were good. I was not a problem child, certainly not like Bobby. Bobby was the problem child. Everyone in the whole school knew that. He was always in trouble. If you were going to take bets on how many times Bobby would be called to the principle's office, you might have wanted to take the 'Over.' Still, despite not having poor behavioral issues in common we were friends outside of school. Things were different back then. It was not as though you spent time playing video games, as much as you spent time outside. We played together every day after school. Boys against the girls in kick ball, or whiffle ball. Even though our home respective home lives might have been chaotic, our life outside of our homes was filled with fun that made for childhood memories pretty much like the Wonder Years. We were kids. "Remember when you and Michael threw water balloons at our window to wake us up so we could come down and play whiffle ball," I shared. "Remember when you came over and we played Spin the Bottle, in my basement, he said." Funny, I had not remembered that. Must have been some other girl.

Soon after we reconnected, Bobby seemed to disappear. At first it seemed like no big deal. I mean it was not as though he was committed to me, and owed me any explanation for his departure. Yet, I notice when people leave. The trauma of abandonment that occurred very often in my childhood has left me feeling disconnect and discomfort with unexplained absences. I will notice when someone is gone, and when they

leave without notice I can get incredibly confused. I will usually think I've done something wrong to have them leave and in a sense abandon me. This is something I try to be mindful of so that I do not obsess over a person's departure. Despite being mindful of my possible hypersensitivity toward his unexplained absence, Bobby's disappearance concerned me. One day

I decided to send him a copy of the poem, "If" by Rudyard Kipling via Facebook email. It was and still is my favorite poem, and I thought Bobby might appreciate it. When I did not get any response, I was truly worried. It was not like him to ignore my communication. Where had he gone? I would repeatedly check his Facebook page. There had been no updated Facebook statuses for quite awhile. Basically he just seemed to have disappeared.

Six weeks would pass before I would hear from him again. Then one day, just before Thanksgiving my phone rang. The number was unfamiliar to me, but something told me I should pick it up. I was sitting with my friend and her mom, at their kitchen table. I had just dropped one of my adult students who were going to Texas to see his girlfriend off at the airport, and I had stopped by my friend's home because she happens to live relatively close to the airport. "Hey it's Bobby. I just woke up. I've been in a coma for six weeks and I can't use my hands so I cannot text. Thanks for the poem. I love it. I've been clean for six weeks."

I didn't have the heart to tell him that being clean for six weeks, when you're in a coma . . . he was so happy and was elated to be alive. It would be sometime before I would feel the emotional contagion from his joy again. That day would come though, the day he sat on that very special Kawasaki bike, and decided to live again.

**Playbabe of
the Month**

Tenna
Chapple

PHOTOGRAPHY
BY JOEL FLORA

Tell us about yourself.
Being a model, I feel that people assume that I'm very confident and maybe even conceited. I have a lot of body insecurities and have struggled with body image issues all my life and probably always will. I'm always picking myself apart in every photo I post. I'm my worst critic. I feel that people also assume that I'm shallow b/c I model for a living. Truth is modeling pays my bills and that's it. What makes me happier than anything is helping people and animals.

I'm definitely a free spirit and very down to earth. What makes me happiest is making people laugh and smile. I'm a giant dork! I feel that I have a really big heart and would do anything for anyone. Many people don't know this, but I've had a really, really hard life and it's made me very strong, nonjudgmental, determined, sensitive and compassionate. I'm also very athletic and very competitive and a huge tomboy! I'm a vegetarian b/c I'm a HUGE animal lover. My best traits are compassion and loyalty. I feel my best asset is my outgoing and bubbly

personality. I LOVE fast cars. I'm kind of a crazy adrenaline junkie. I've always wanted a Lamborghini. I would definitely be the driver!!

I eat a pretty healthy vegetarian diet and don't drink often. I don't deprive myself of things and believe that moderation is the key. I'm very physically active as well. I typically go to yoga 4 times a week as well as lifting weights and hiking. I also try to get a really good sweat session in a few times a week by spending 30min in a 180 degree sauna. Living in DTLA area I walk



PLAYBABE OF THE MONTH





Q&A

so much b/c everything is near me.

Is there anything you would like to change about yourself?

There is a list of things I'd like to change about myself, ha-ha. I have always had a really hard time standing up for myself and I've been taken advantage of many times b/c of it. I hate letting anyone down even if it affects me horribly. I am way overly sensitive and one negative comment on social media can make me cry and ruin my day. :(

Name one thing you want to check off of your bucket list in the next five years.

I have SO many things on my bucket list. One thing I have wanted to do for so long is go away to another country for two weeks and volunteer to help the underprivileged.

Any do's and don'ts about men?

I love a man with a beautiful smile, nice butt and chiseled abs! There are a lot of traits in a man that can turn me on. Sense of humor is what attracts me to a man more than anything. If we have the same sense of humor and you make me laugh all the time that's the way to my heart. I love a man that takes care of himself by eating healthy, working out, and not being a party animal. I also love a man that's loyal, romantic, affectionate, loves animals, and doesn't judge people.

I want to have fun and talk and get to know them :) I'm a hopeless romantic. I love getting love letters and cards for no reason. And maybe a homemade CD :). I love to do anything that involves competing. My last few dates consisted of go cart racing, bowling, batting cage, miniature golf and Dave and Busters. I had the time of my life and was pretty much winning in everything lol. I'm like a giant kid. I get so into the arcade games that I start sweating. lol

A man that's ignorant is the worst and its beyond unattractive. I can think of a lot of turn-offs. A few are racism, ignorance, bad manners, temper, a man who mistreats his family/friends, cheap, one who doesn't like animals, not athletic, and a party animal

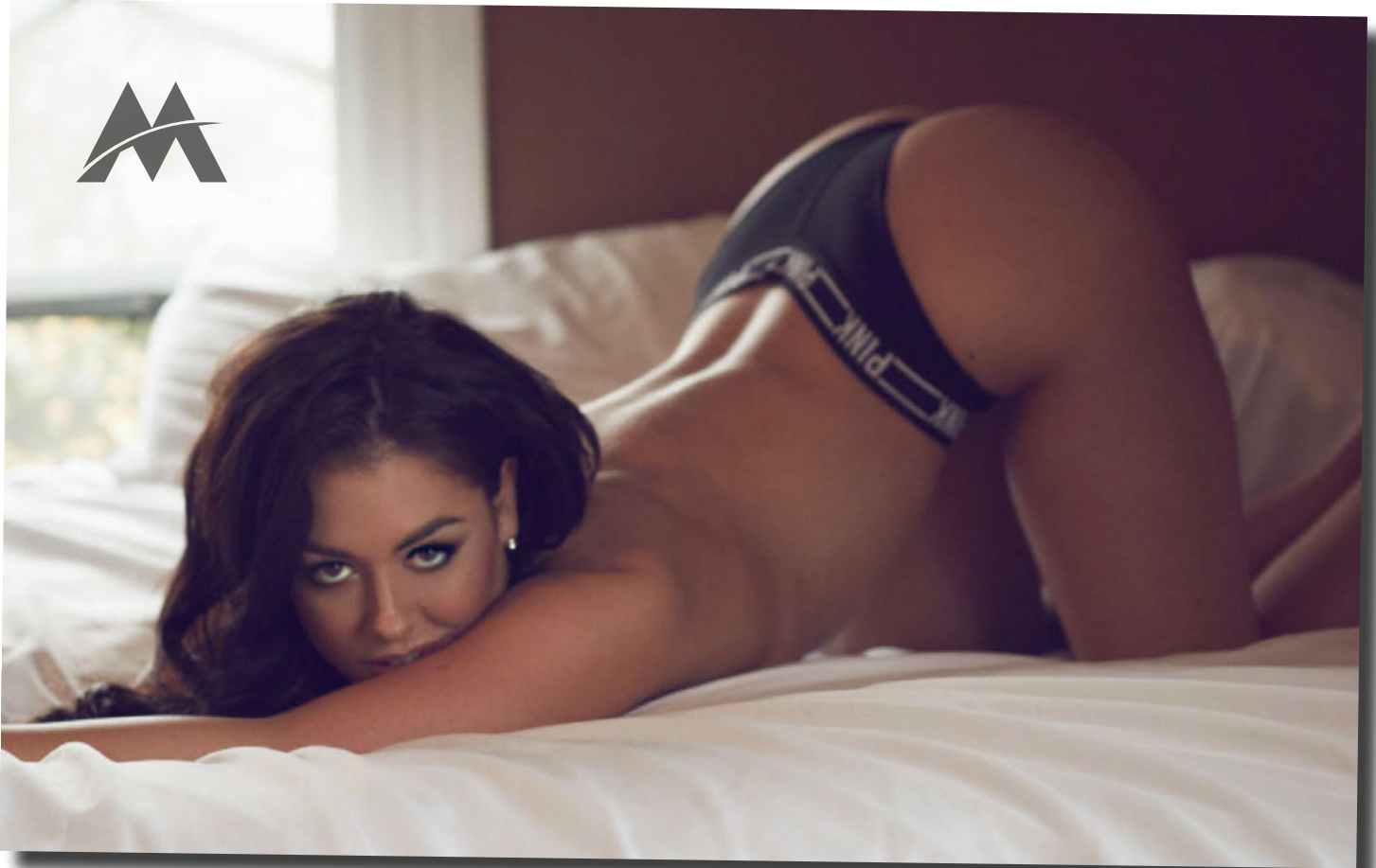
xoxo
Tenna
Chapple





PLAYBABE OF THE MONTH





Its Sunday afternoon what can we find you doing?

Probably submitting to casting calls and working out. Either at yoga or hiking most likely. If it's really nice out, maybe laying out at the beach :)

What got you into modeling?

I was told since I was a little girl that I should be modeling/acting. I was the shyest person alive and only cared about playing sports until I was 18 years old. I started out promotional modeling at 25 years old when I moved to Indiana from Chicago. I did that for a couple of years, typically at the car/motorcycle races. I then moved to California in December 2013 to pursue my career in print modeling. It has been going very well and I hope to eventually get into acting someday. I love it here in Los Angeles and have never been happier. As hard as it was moving across the country alone, not knowing anyone it was the best decision I've ever made in my life. I love the people here and am thankful for all the friends I have made. I feel my best asset is my outgoing and bubbly personality

If you had to give advice to a new model starting out, what would it be?

There will be a lot of ups and downs. Social media is a big part of being in the industry which can be very difficult. There will be

haters and really hurtful things said, just ignore them and keep moving forward and know it's not you, it's them. Keep your head up, you'll be great :)

Is there any model who inspires you?

To be honest there aren't really any models that inspire me, well none that I can think of off the top of my head. When I think of people that inspire me it's typically musicians, actors/actresses, and athletes that come to my mind. Britney Spears, Jim Carey, Meryl Streep, Robin Williams, Demi Lovato, and Robert Downey Jr. are just a few of the inspirational people that I admire. They all battle with diseases/mental illness and have accomplished more than most people. I feel that being a model/actor is the hardest career mentally that someone can do. I myself have struggled horribly with depression since I was 16 years old. It's something I have to deal with the rest of my life. I admire and look up to these people so much for their strength. They give me hope.

Do you like sports?

I LOVE playing sports. My favorite sports to play are tennis and basketball. I played just about every sport growing up. I really miss being on teams and competing. I also love playing catch with a football or softball for a good hour or two. I don't enjoy watching sports on TV, only in person. I don't really

have a favorite team. I love going to basketball and football games more than any other sports. I always have a blast and usually end up losing my voice from cheering and screaming so loud

Funny pick up line?

I've heard a lot of pick-up lines and they annoy the crap out of me!! My favorite is "Are you wearing galaxy pants? Because your ass is out of this world!" I actually think that one is pretty clever and kind of cute lol

What's the most adventurous or most memorable date you've been on?

One of my most memorable dates was snorkeling with sharks in the Bahamas. That was so much fun and I'd love to do that again! Zip lining in Playa Del Carmen was really fun too! Next on the list is Skydiving!

Fishing, hunting, racing or sex - what order or preference?

I'm so against fishing and hunting. Hunting makes me so sad, I can't even hurt a fly. I can't understand how someone could kill/hurt an innocent animal for fun. I would be so out of it from sex that racing wouldn't be as good. So I say go racing and get fired up and turned on and then go have sex like 3 times. That would be amazing!! Now I want to go do that right now haha.



Mariah Rivera

INTERVIEW BY MICHELLE SPORTS X

📷 PATRICK RIVERA

Mariah Rivera loves her new job as one of the cheerleaders for the Las Vegas Outlaws. She's absolutely psyched about being out there in the midst of all the fun and she is not surprised she landed a job that would allow her to use her experience as a professional dancer to become involved in sports. Somehow she always knew she might marry the two.

Mariah Rivera has been dancing since she was three years old, and when her mom suggested she move to Vegas to become a professional dancer, she did not hesitate. She also did not hesitate when a friend, who happens to sing back up for the popular rock band, Motley Crue, suggested she try out to become a cheerleader for Vince Neil's Arena Football team, the Las Vegas Outlaws.

Mariah Rivera, is not unlike other professional showgirls, I've had the pleasure of meeting while in Vegas. She is smart, witty, a hard worker and talented. I happened to do the interview with Mariah while I was in Austin, Texas and she was in Vegas, but her enthusiasm for what she does emulated through the phone. I have little doubt when I meet up with her in Vegas, she is going to light up the room or arena, whichever I happen to make it to first.

Like many professional women in Vegas, Mariah works various jobs to showcase her talent. She is a professional dancer in the show Fantasy, at the Luxor. She is also a cheerleader for a professional Arena Football team. What keeps her going is her dedication to herself and her passion to work hard.

One of the first questions I asked Mariah, was to share just who she is, in her mind. To sum it up, she shared that she is a professional dancer. She described how she grew up in Colorado, was busy picking peaches and went to school for marketing. She decided to pursue professional dancing because she is good at it, and she loves what she does.

What does Mariah want you to know about her? She's convinced she has the perfect life, but she will be the first to share it's your typical love story. She was dancing at The Rio, and met the then manager. One kiss leads to another and the rest is history. Now she lives happily ever after in Vegas, with her two adorable Chihuahuas, Moxie and Axel.



MX: Hi, Mariah. I am so excited Greg DeMarco gave me the heads up that you landed the job to be cheering for the Outlaws. I knew you were in the show 'Fantasy' but I had not realized you were cheering, until Greg shared and then I got to see the awesome photos you had tweeted out during one of the games. How do you know Greg and what role do you think social media have played in your success?

MR: I love Twitter. In fact, that's how I got to meet Greg. It was all because of Twitter. Greg tweeted me and invited me to be a guest on his show. I think I was a guest two or three times, and it's all because we connected on Twitter. So I think social

media can play a huge role, and for me it has played a huge role in a person's success. As far as the cheerleading role, I got that job after trying out for it. My friend is a back up singer for Motley Crue, and knows Vince. When the word was out that they were looking for cheerleaders, I was all over that. I'm psyched. It's a whole lot of fun.

The thing with Vegas showgirls, nobody really knows their names. We work as hard as anyone on Broadway or in Hollywood, but there are so many shows and for some reason we don't get the same recognition. Social media has allowed me to be noticed in a way that people recognize me, and

know my name. It's played a huge role in allowing me to land interviews like this, and get my name out.

MX: So tell me about life in Vegas. Do you love it?

MR: I do. I really do love it. I'm living a life that I imagined. I love what I do. I've been dancing since I was three. I loved sports, too. I could have gone to school on a scholarship but I got hurt. It didn't happen. Yet, I was still able to dance. So when my mom suggested I move to Vegas to become a professional dancer that's exactly what I did.



MX: In some of my interviews, I ask a question that's pretty traditional really. For example, that standard question like, "If you could meet three people, and have drinks or dinner with them whom would you choose and why?"

MR: That's such a tough question. I think if it were narrowed down, and let's say it was a topic like sports, I would choose John Elway. That would be a given. I would also like to, or at least I used to want to meet Michael Jordan. Yet, I am unsure if I would change my mind on that one. It's complicated, and I'm not so sure. I might have to give this some thought.

MX: That's okay. It's not like I'm recording this and going to tell the world that you did not respond right off the bat. I mean it's not like you are being asked on stage, with all the world watching. Imagine that. You're up for Miss America, and you freeze. What do you think when the world seems to chastise those people who make mistakes and/or say the wrong thing when the world is watching?

MR: Honestly, that happened to me once. I feel so sorry for them. It's so awful when people take such pleasure in other people's mishaps. Yet it happens all the time. I can understand why people freeze. It happens all the time. People tend to be so unforgiving. I'm not like that. I try to put myself in their shoes, and understand the pressure they might have felt on the stage or with the cameras. I had that happen to me once and I felt almost like I was drowning. It's a really horrible feeling.

MX: How about the one thing nobody else knows about you but you will share with me. I mean I know what happens in Vegas, is supposed to stay in Vegas, but give me something that happens there, that nobody else knows.

MR: My car is like my office. I guess the one thing about me that nobody knows, by my Twitter or by just looking at me is that my car is a total mess. It's become like my office.

MX: So what would happen if an officer pulled you over?

MR: He might wonder why there are so many outfits in my car. There are feathers, and dresses and a wide array of outfits. Everything I own seems to eventually end up in my car, and it does not appear that I will be cleaning it out anytime soon. I tend to use my car as my office, and it's just become a bit of a chaotic mess that suits me well.



MX: I can totally relate. What would you want to share that's something really special about you or your life?

MR: Well, let's see I love my dogs. I am a huge fan of animals and I guess if I have any passion other than dancing, and my family it's my love of animals. So it goes without saying that I would say the ASPCA is an organization that is close to my heart.

MX: I'm so looking forward to seeing you cheer. How did you manage to juggle doing the show at Luxor and taking on this new role.

MR: Well, I've been at Luxor for a

while, so I can pretty much arrange to have people fill in for me when I need to be at the games. I have a really great group of girls who want to support me and we have enough girls to do the show that I'm able to take the time I need. When you are back in Vegas, you should come see the show. Fantasy is great!

MX: I will definitely do that. I love the Luxor, and I'm looking forward to seeing you perform there. I'll also look out for you on the football field. Best of luck with everything.

MR: Thank you so much!

As always, the women I interview are usually busy and heading back to work. For Mariah, it was time to get back to the show. To learn more about her, you can follow her on Twitter @Mariah_Rivera1. She's performing in the show 'Fantasy' at the Luxor in Vegas, and will be cheering for the Las Vegas Outlaws during home games this season.



Chardonnay

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADAM KING







It's nice to sit down and talk with you...

What do you think is a very misleading think or assume about you?

I think when most people meet me they tell me I have a very intimidating demeanor, or when you tell people you model people automatically assume I'm stuck up or think I'm better than the next girl. when in reality I'm really chill and I appreciate all women and their beauty whether they're a model or not women are beautiful.

How would you describe yourself?

I would say I'm quiet and sweet when you first talk to me but when I get comfortable around you, I'm smart, outgoing, funny and artistic and very non judgemental.

What trait do you most like about yourself?

I love that I'm open minded and artistic

What do you do to stay in shape?

I do cardio and light weight lifting

What is your best asset?

I love my lips and butt

Is there anything that you'd like to change about yourself?

No not really I love me just the way I am

Name one thing you want to check off of your bucket list in the next five years.

I'd love to go to Spain everything looks so beautiful and carefree.

What body part/s do you find sexiest in a man?

I think smile is key and a nice chest i can nestle on at night.

What do you find to be a turn-on in a man?

The sexiest thing a man can do is be ambitious and motivated. Being ambitious about anything moving up in their job or finishing a project or book its sexy to see a guy with goals.

When going on a first date, I want to...

EAT I love eating take me to a hole in the wall restaurant or a fancy place, you can even cook for me this girl loves to eat.



What is the most romantic thing a guy could do for you?

I'm not crazy about over the top gestures but small things, to remind me that I'm theirs and they only have eyes for me is the most romantic thing for me.

Do you prefer a traditional romantic dinner date or do you like to hang out with a guy at a bar drinking wings, shooting pool, etc.?

I can do both I suck at pool but if that's what the guy is comfortable doing then I'll feel more comfortable, anything that is engaging me in conversation and my surroundings is better than awkwardly sitting across a table staring at each other thinking of things to say.

I hate it when a guy...

is arrogant

What is a turn-off in a guy? What makes a guy a "0"?

I can't stand pretty boys I think men are men I'm the only one who should take a long time to get ready... let's not mention the attitude most of them have.. ewwww

What advice do you have for a guy trying to pick you up or ask you out?

Just be you try talking to me make the conversation flow because I get just as nervous being asked out

It's Sunday afternoon, what can we find you doing?

At my parents house or watching a movie

What is your favorite car? Driver's seat or passenger seat?

I love Camaros and Mustangs my dream car is a 67' fastback all black. and I like to drive but sometimes it's nice to sit back and have someone else to take the wheel.

What got you into modeling?

I've always loved the thought of getting dressed up and pretending to be someone else for a moment, I also loved watching the Victoria's Secret fashion shows when I was younger and I would think I want to be those girls. tall and glamorous and they looked like the Barbies I would play with

What is your favorite sport? To play? To watch?

I love to play volleyball but I love watching football if it's a team I like especially the Steelers I'm a big Steelers fan

What is the craziest pick-up line you've ever heard or had used on you?

This guy asked me if I filed taxes with the guy I'm seeing if not then we're not that serious and he still had a chance. I also had a guy tell me straight up you just look like you can talk dirty here's my number

There's a job at Kawasaki, I think you would be perfect for



Somewhere in my notes, there is mention of how those who knew Brad Puetz, knew that he would be perfect for the job at Kawasaki Motor Corps., USA and with any luck I will piece them all together, and tell the amazing story of how Brad landed his present job, which I agree he is perfect for. There are eight pages of notes though, and somehow as we got to talking, and I began what would become one of my most thought provoking interviews, I ran out of room on the stationary I had chosen to write upon. Of course, I could have opted for a tape recorder, or typing notes in my I-phone but that would have been so ordinary, and anyone who knows me knows that I'm all about extraordinary, especially when it comes to anything to do with those who may be affiliated with Kawasaki. I love Kawasaki, and my interview with Brad Puetz was special. I had waited a long time to meet him, and there was so much to learn.

For the back-story, and just why I am extremely fond of Kawasaki, you will need to have either been aware of and/or stay tuned to the story of 'Ride Insane' which with any luck might one day be a movie based upon the real life events about a boy and a girl who connected on Facebook, years after they were separated after a traumatic event had occurred during their childhood. That story involves not only the bond of friendship, the disconnect and separation

caused by events that were outside of the control of children, as well as, the incredible power of one of Kawasaki's signature bikes, the ZX-10R. It is the story of 'Ride Insane' that lead me to learn about Brad Puetz, Media Relations Supervisor, for Kawasaki Motor Corp., USA.

When I first spoke with Brad, several months ago, he had just returned to California from a trip to Italy, wherein he was involved with promotions of Kawasaki's signature bikes. There are so many super models, it's difficult for me to recall which one but I have little doubt Brad would be able to tell you exactly what he was there for, and all about the bike that was being featured. After we first spoke, we shared several emails. Of course, most of them were mine as I was filling Brad in on the story of 'Ride Insane', which was something I was and am still working on. There were so many emails, this I knew. Brad was kind enough to give me the respect of listening to how and why I was interested in reaching out, and did his best to understand the back-story of 'Ride Insane.'

After we connected, I realized that other than being a PR guy for Kawasaki, there was very little I knew about Brad, and I wondered just how did he end up where he is. It was obvious he had respect for Kawasaki's products, as he was professional in his approach as to how he managed all communication about the company. Yet, who was he? How did he end up being the Media Relations Supervisor for such a world-class organization? I decided I wanted to know more about him, more so than I wanted to share about me and the story of 'Ride Insane' so I asked him if he would mind if I interviewed him for *Mancave Media, LLC*. I shared *Mancave's Media Kit* and waited for his response. Initially, I thought I would accomplish the interview over the phone, but luck would have it that we would both be in Texas at the same time, and Brad was able to set some time aside so we could meet in person.

You know how sometimes you might have an expectation before you meet someone you have spoken with over the phone, and then when you meet him or her they turn out to be exactly the opposite of who you thought they

would be? Well, I cannot say that happened when I met Brad. In fact, I am not even sure I had any expectation. If I did, it was buried somewhere in my unconscious mind and I was unaware of it. Whatever it might have been, more than likely Brad exceeded it. I found him to be incredibly professional, thoughtful and considerate. The kind of person you would want to not only represent your company, but also the kind of man you would enjoy a conversation with and if you were to know him on a personal level, chances are you would likely develop a friendship that would be ever-lasting. That's the sort of guy he comes across as. Brad is someone you would want to know and he seems to be someone who values character and integrity. It is likely these qualities that have propelled his career in the riding industry.

We decided to have dinner while we were in Austin, and Brad drove to meet me at the restaurant that was near the hotel I was staying at. This was a bit out of the way from where he was staying. I was more than grateful as I did not have a car, and I was nestled somewhere in the Hill Country, a bit outside of the city. When he arrived I could not miss him, as he was fully adorned in Kawasaki apparel. I must say he wears it well. Before, I asked any questions of Brad, he asked me to share more about the background of 'Ride Insane.' I was not surprised I had a feeling he might. I knew it might be a bit confusing just who I was, and why I had come to have such admiration for Kawasaki. "I'm still trying to figure it all out. So could you just share again, how you ended up writing for *Mancave Media LLC*, and tell me a little bit more about the back-story. Brad listened intently as I summarized the past few years of my life and shared about how the men's mag I was writing for, wanted to write an exclusive on the story of 'Ride Insane.' When I finished he shared that he now fully understood what lead me to where I was at, and he also understood the premise of 'Ride Insane' and how owning a motorcycle could be a life altering experience. Of course, 'Ride Insane' was not just about any motorcycle, it was about a specific model, Kawasaki's ZX-10R. Bringing up the bike, and riding in general allowed me the perfect opportunity to segue

into the part where I could ask him all about how he came to become an expert rider, and how he landed his job with Kawasaki.

Brad shared that when he was young, he grew up on a farm. He also shared how his dad had gotten into an accident with his family in the car. His dad lost his life, but the rest of the family survived. Brad was one of the family members in the car. Losing your dad at such a young age, or at any age for that matter would likely have some profound effects on a person but Brad shared that he is not a person to wallow in sadness. He prefers to take things as they come, and deal with them the best way he can. In other words, losing his dad and being in the accident, was not going to become an excuse for him to use as a way to underachieve. Brad recalled how he had dreams of leaving the farm he grew up on in Canada, and moving to California. He shared how he had two dreams and those two dreams were to [1] move to California and [2] race motorcycles. Brad managed to do both. When he became of age, he and his friend Brent, set out to get to California or bust. Brad can recall the make and model of the vehicle they took as they traipsed through Utah, en route to The Golden State. No doubt, that make and model is somewhere in my notes.

After checking my notes, looks like it was a 1977 Dodge Ram Charger truck, which according to Brad's best recollection broke down somewhere in Utah. Eventually he and Brent, would break down a few more times, hitchhike and end up spending time in Vegas before reaching their final destination. Sounds like a scene right out of a *The Hangover*. Brad can still recall how his friend said something like, "Welcome to America!" as the two made their way further south.

Brad had a passion for bikes since as far back as he can remember. He can recall getting a book about motorcycles when he was seven, and he is quite sure that somewhere in the family photo album that photo remains. Of course, there were those who would tell him that he was obsessing about motorcycles too much, but those who did so, do so less an less now that they see all that he has accomplished.

Although Brad always had a passion for riding, he put that passion aside when he decided got to California and decided to put himself through school. For Brad, getting the money to go to school meant he would have to sell his bike. He did so without hesitation though, and soon he found himself graduating with a degree in graphic design.

Soon Brad would pick up riding again. In

this earlier days, when he was living in Calgary he had done a couple of races. He had worked at a motorcycle shop, and he was riding a Honda CBR900. One of the guys at the shop, had suggested that if Brad wanted to take up racing he consider getting a different bike. So Brad switched bikes, and opted for a Yamaha 600. While in California, Brad's passion for riding grew. He found himself at Willows Springs Raceway, which is about two hours outside of Los Angeles. While racing, Brad got into an accident at 'Turn 8', which is a high-speed right hand turn, and a place according to Brad, you do not want to have an accident. Brad broke his leg as a result of that accident. After realizing he was doing what most pros do, risking so much with no real reward he decided it was time to go pro. The accident, in a sense, was a turning point for Brad, and he realized that if he were going to be racing like a pro, he might as well be one.

Several opportunities would open up for Brad after he turned pro. He would eventually marry his two passions of racing and graphic design. People in the industry who knew of Brad, and his reputation as a dedicated, hard worker who had a passion for riding also believe he would be excellent at promoting. Word got around that Brad understood the riding business, and many would speak highly of Brad's work ethic, so when PR positions in the riding industry opened up, Brad was very often considered one of the best men for these positions. It was not as though Brad was trying to be a 'PR guy' he simply believed in riding, and he was good at it. What's that you say, if you're going 'talk the talk' ... well, in the motorcycle industry, if you're going to 'talk you may want to know a thing or two about riding' and Brad knew more than a thing or two about riding. Eventually Brad was lined up for a job at a popular racing magazine when that magazine went under before he was able to prosper. Although Brad never worked in that particular job, due to the magazine's going under, that failed opportunity allowed him to forge a friendship with professionals in the industry whom Brad considers instrumental in his success. Eventually those who respected his knowledge and expertise thought Brad should apply to Kawasaki for a job that had opened up in Public Relations. Brad still recalls hearing one of his friends say,

"There is a job at Kawasaki, you'd be perfect for"

After Brad submitted his resume, and went through a series of interviews, Brad Puetz got the job as Media Relations Supervisor, for Kawasaki Motor Corps., USA. Brad could not be happier. His job at Kawasaki has allowed him to work with what he describes 'the best of the best' and he's able to travel all over the world. Of all the places Brad has been too, he seems to have a special fondness for Brazil. Something about the people, and his time there has left him feeling a connection to the country. During the time I spent getting to know more about Brad, he described himself as relatively shy. He considers himself an introvert by nature although he believes he is very comfortable traveling and communicating with others when he's talking about riding, and representing Kawasaki. He is extremely comfortable talking to those he does not know, especially when the topic has to do with racing. He's not apt to be glued to the television when it comes to watching a stadium sport, but he's definitely capable of carrying on a conversation with those who do. He's personable, professional, and a top-notch performer. He appears to me to be comfortable both on and off the track.

When he spoke about racing, he talked about how he was most concerned with his own performance as opposed to winning a race. In other words, if he had done a certain time one day, and then did less than that time on a different day but won the race, that was not something he would feel a sense of accomplishment over. He wanted to do a better time than he had in the past, and if he did that, but did not win or place, it mattered not. His main concern was improving his own time. Brad's position with Kawasaki allows him to do what he loves. He is promoting a product, company and sport he loves. He is also traveling all over the world. He does speak about how he misses racing, but he's content to have accomplished all he has, and be doing what he is doing now. Being involved in the promotion of new products, and being in Spain when Tom Sykes won the World Championship, are priceless memories.

During the time Brad shared about his experiences at Kawasaki, he shared a video of a marketing campaign he had created that involved a photo shoot of one of Kawasaki's super models. The pride he has for his work, and the passion he has for the company he represents is obvious. There is little doubt that if Abraham Maslow were to consider Brad's hierarchy of needs, Brad Puetz has found his sense of belonging when he travels, when he races, and deep in the heart of Kawasaki Motor Corps., USA.

Jessie Erinn

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID SUTTON





How would you describe yourself?

Responsible, but fun, and free spirited

What trait do you like most about yourself?

I am very positive and laid back

What traits do you dislike most about yourself?

I take on a lot of projects all at once and must finish them all.

What do you do to stay in shape?

I work out

What do you look for in a guy?

Motivation, personality and dark features

What turns you off in a guy?

No confidence

Your favorite Superhero?

Spiderman

What got you into modeling?

I was in a video with Snoopdogg and just continued from there!

What's your favorite car?

Bugatti

What's your all-time favorite movie which you would watch again and again and never get tired of?

Wolf of Wall Street

What's your favorite sport?

Volleyball

What's the craziest pick up line you have ever heard?

Did you sit in a pile of sugar? Cause you have a pretty sweet ass.

If there is a famous model who inspired you, who would that be?

Adrianna Lima





By Michelle Sports X

Family like branches on a tree, we all grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one ~
Author Unknown

Chances are you are familiar with the controversial Dallas maverick, Mark Cuban. I say this because Mark, who was described as a 'man of 1000 faces' in the February '2015 issue of MAXIM magazine, is pretty well known all across the United States, and perhaps the world. He is known not only because of his role as one of the sharks on the popular television show, *Shark Tanks* but also for building a successful business empire which includes being owner of an NBA team. He has a reputation for frank, candid brashness, as well as being someone who has had his share of controversy. Comments he made back in 2014 during the midst of the Donald Sterling saga made national headlines because many deemed them to be bigoted and/or racist. Of course, the media has a tendency to blow things way out of proportion, especially when it comes to matters like race relations. According to that same aforementioned MAXIM magazine article, Mark apologized for those particular comments and attributed much of the madness to contextual issues.

Speaking of contextual issues, could it be that this is what caused me to assess Mark's brother Brian as one of the most controversial men I've ever met? Was something he said, taken out of context or did the apple not fall far from the tree, when it came to handing out 'the controversy gene' in the Cuban family? To learn more, read on.

"Forget your lust for the rich man's gold, All that you need is in your soul...~ Simple Man, Lynyrd Skynyrd

Before I share why I believe Brian Cuban can hold a candle to his brother when it comes to the title of 'Mr. Controversy', let me share a little bit about Brian, and tell you how I came to know of him. For simplicity sake, and so that I do not screw this up by mis-stating Brian's credentials, I am going to share exactly what he has noted in his bio on Twitter, which is: "Brian Cuban is a 'Best Selling Author/Keynote Speaker-Eating Disorders-Addiction- Depression-Courage-Recovery – Penn State 83 grad – Pitt Law 86 ...'" As for how I came to know about him, he happened to tweet me directly about a book he is working on and followed up by sending me a copy of his already published book, *Shattered Image: My Triumph Over Body Dysmorphic Disorder*. It is this book, rather than contextual issues that lead me to believe Brian takes the cake when it comes to being confrontational. He has in a sense confronted an enemy so few ever take on, that enemy being none other than himself.

"Know thy self, know thy enemy. A thousand battles, a thousand victories." Sun Tzu

I was grateful Brian offered to send me a copy of his book. Chances are I would have searched for it and bought it upon hearing the title. My bookcase in my office is filled with books written by people who have confronted inner demons, and dealt with issues similar to those Brian had the courage to face. Brian is not the only person to suffer from BDD. He is also not the only

person I know who has struggled with it. I too, have had my own bout with negative body image and BDD. The power of BDD was so strong that I was literally causing myself to disappear. It was to the point that I was diagnosed with facial erosion.

Just how and why I had ended up with such severe deep seeded issues concerning the image I saw when I looked in the mirror is complicated. There is no one variable that one can attribute to BDD, and my learned behavior, coupled with my biological makeup worked to manifest the condition. Just as Brian discusses in his book as to not being able to identify an exact day when he knew he had BDD, I also cannot describe the exact moment I knew I was afflicted. It's not as though I woke up and realized that there was a significant problem staring back at me, every time I looked in the mirror. However, doing a forensic study of my life it is understandable what happened to me. I can easily recall various variables that likely contributed to my dysfunction. Those variables include my being abandoned by my biological maternal parent when I was six weeks old, being left in a playpen for months on end to the point that when I was removed, rumor has it I literally walked in circles. Additional variables such as being raised in an incredibly abusive household where nothing I ever did or was would be deemed 'good enough', my father's arrest for a horrible crime he committed around the time I was between the age of 8-10 years old, and for failing to rescue my sister from the Hell in which we lived. My sister would end up putting a knife in her chest when she was an adult. She would do so in front of her children, the youngest of which was eight years old at the time. Although she would not die as a result of her actions, her life and that of her family's would never be the same. My sister's horror, and the abusive monster that was my father, has been written about in a song, both written and performed by a now Hall of Fame rock star. Trust me the abuse I endured as a child was very real and like Brian; I'm no stranger to the pain of internal conflict. I have also exhibited enormous strength in overcoming and facing the issue of BDD head on. Photos that I take and share which have been complimented by so many, and deemed to be

'Very Sexy' are posted in tribute to my strength and my being able to see myself as beautiful, and nothing more. It took me a long time to get up the courage to put on something that would allow any part of my body to show, and I now feel blessed to have the body I have, and embrace my imperfections. Sure I would love to look like a supermodel and be on the cover of a magazine. In truth, I think many girls would.

It's probably not much different than an athlete wanting to be in the NBA. It's a child fantasy, or a dream of sorts. It's not a crime to want to be pretty, but it might be a crime to want it at all costs. Are men's magazine's responsible for the issues I suffered from. I do not think so. I think it's perfectly acceptable for a man to appreciate external beauty. I also think it's okay for women to appreciate men's external features. Of course, as Halle Berry once said, "Ugly in, is ugly out."

Brian was kind enough to share a copy of his book with me, without my ever asking. Immediately upon my receipt of the book, I began to delve into the pages. I found myself compelled to email him at various times because I wanted to say, "Oh my God, I totally get it. I know exactly how you felt when that happened to you." Never one to hold back, I did exactly that. I emailed Brian and expressed my compassion, empathy and relation to what he experienced as a child, a teen and an adult. I also told Brian about how I, too had developed the strength to forgive myself for being imperfect. I explained in my emails how I work as a tutor in Drug Court, how I am a substitute teacher, and about all I have done to help those who have experienced misuse of power. For some reason I had felt a powerful connection to Brian Cuban, because I believed we had walked in similar shoes. For some reason, I wanted him to know that I too was on a journey to help share about the myth of perfection vs. the reality of imperfection.

Soon after my finishing Brian's remarkable story, I reached out again via Twitter and had another insightful exchange. Brian said he noticed I had graduated from Boston University and asked if I would like to meet him in April, when he was planning on being there for an event

pertaining to eating disorders. Somewhere in our exchange I shared that I was writing for a men's magazine, and I asked him if he would agree to allow me to interview him. His response surprised me a bit because he said that he felt participating in the interview for a men's magazine might go against his branding. Branding? I had not realized there was a brand, as opposed to a man. What on earth did he mean by the interview not fitting in with his branding? I would soon begin to see Brian's tweets to magazines on Twitter, which were what I think somewhat combative. Like his brother Mark, he seems to be somewhat brash in his communication and is expressive and opinionated.

I did not agree with Brian that being interviewed by a men's magazine could potentially hurt his branding. I went as far as to tell him so. In fact, I suggested that if he wanted to reach the people he professed to want to help, that a men's magazine might be the best place to tell his story. He responded to me that he would be the one to decide what was best for him. His response was sent during a confidential DM on Twitter, and I soon realized I had struck a nerve. Was I wrong to be so forward and express my desire that this man see the interview as a window of opportunity?

You speak but no one hears, brace yourself your darkest fears ~ She deserves a free ride by Zakk Wylde

I soon realized that perhaps I was considering Brian a friend and a confidant, because I was being very honest and direct. I was emailing him my thoughts and feelings, and had likely developed a false sense of security and closeness. I emailed him an apology for what might have been my being too open, and suggested that his book was such an intimate portrayal and that upon reading it, I felt as though I knew him. His book is that good.

Most men fear intimacy, and they tend to compartmentalize. It is rare that a man will actually take the time to confront himself in the manner that Brian did, and then go on to talk about it openly and in front of crowds in the way he has. I realized that just because I had read a very intimate portrayal of a man's inner

turmoil, and I felt as though I knew him, did not mean I did. The fact is I related so much to the pain he had gone through that I probably wished for him to be my friend. Inside, I probably hoped that he cared about my story; in the same manner I cared about his. Somewhere along the way I had forgotten that I was simply a consumer, and someone whom he had sent a book to, as opposed to someone he had struck up a friendship with. Sure, I followed him on Twitter and up to that point I had engaged in what I felt were insightful exchanges, but it was not as though we were friends. I emailed him and told him that I meant no disrespect him by inviting him to be interviewed by a men's magazine but that I stood by what I said, and I still do. I believe that if we are to reach people, we might want to step aside from traditional branding per se, and go beyond the perceived norm to where the problems might be. In other words, if you truly believe that men's magazines are the culprit for mental illness and dysfunction then confront the issue, and openly talk about it. I was not planning to censor anything in the interview. I wanted to share Brian's concerns, and what better place to do it than in a magazine that profiles and promotes itself as a men's interest magazines. Of course, hopefully after reading this article you will see that this publication is not only sharing photo images of women it deems to possess external beauty, it is also respecting and valuing women by including articles such as this one.

After apologizing to Brian for possibly being too forward, and explaining the reason, which I attributed to my level of comfort that was likely a result of my having read his intimate account of his life, I heard from him again. "I'll do the interview," was what was tweeted to me the day after I apologized. I was delighted. Brian followed up his tweet by sending me a video of him giving a speech at an event in Toronto. I watched the video from start to finish, and responded in what I felt was a complimentary manner. I was honored that he chose to share another piece of himself with me. I, in turn, shared some of my journey with Brian. For example, I related to his story about the gold pants his brother Mark had bought him.

I shared about what happened to me when I was in high school. I gave details about how I was held down by boys on the school bus, who after pinning my arms and legs to the school bus seat, proceeded to take a

magic marker and write all over my face. I shared my recollection about how I shielded my face as I walked home, and about how I attempted to wash the marker off of my face, all the while staring in the mirror feeling so much shame.

When I learned Brian was going to be the keynote speaker at the first annual gala event for The Taylor Hooton Foundation, I asked him if he would mind if rather than Boston, we meet in Dallas. I could do the interview there, if his schedule permitted. I checked with him prior to making my plans to go to the event, but its not as though I would not have gone to the event even if Brian said he would not have had time to meet me. Just if I was heading to Dallas for this event, and he was speaking there and/or close by maybe I could accomplish meeting him, doing the interview and attending the event. Although initially Brian thought he would have time to meet up with me, when I got to Dallas things did not go as I had hoped. Brian's schedule was crazy busy so the interview never took place. I suppose that being busy is another thing the Cubans have in common, which of course makes perfect sense. They are both out there making their mark and changing the world.

When I arrived at the gala event for 'One Glamorous Night' in honor of The Taylor Hooton Foundation, everything was perfect. Several members of the Hooton family spoke about the organization's mission, to educate youth about appearance and performance enhancing drugs. Bud Selig also spoke about Major League Baseball's commitment and responsibility to social issues confronting our youth. The keynote speaker, Brian Cuban, took the stage and shared part of his story, and discussed his addiction to steroids. I sat in the crowd, at a table close to the stage and felt as though I was watching someone I had known all of my life. Brian ended his speech by saying, "I am your child." After Brian's speech resonated with me, I thought about all I had been through in my life. I thought about all I do for others, how I work so hard, just like Brian to help combat misuse of power, and to teach and emphasize that internal beauty is what truly trumps all. No it is not a sin to want to be pretty, but as a society we must remember that it is our collective soul that matters most. Being on the cover of a magazine is not to be shamed, but not making the cover is nothing to feel shame

about. There is a small percentage of us that will be good enough to be super athletes and there is a small percentage of us whom possess the external beauty that might be deemed by magazines or movies to be in accordance with what they wish to promote as the ideal. Just because we do not see what looks like a supermodel staring back at us when we look in the mirror is nothing to feel shame about. Risking our health and taking performance enhancing drugs, and becoming addicted to laxatives or having the compulsion to binge or purge our intake, just to look like someone worthy of a magazine is something we should look to rid, because people are losing their lives all because of a desire to want to be deemed worthy and accepted. We must remember that it is our hearts that will reign long after any external beauty fades, and it is our hearts we should focus on more than any other element when it comes to wanting to shine. Someone like me who has managed to be strong enough to stand in front of a mirror and a camera and allow myself to be photographed for a men's magazine is nothing short of a miracle. The scars from my childhood, the shame of growing up in a home where I was conditioned to feel 'less than' might never go away, but I now see those scars as reminders of all I have survived. I now feel beautiful when I look in the mirror, not because I am looking at the image of a supermodel but because I am looking at an image of me. I may not ever be on the cover of a men's magazine, and that is nothing to feel shame about. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and some people are more photogenic than others. Taylor Hooton took his own life, likely because of residual affects of appearance and performance enhancing drugs. My sister put a knife in her chest likely due to residual affects of being sexually abused when she was a child. Who did my sister see when she looked in the mirror?

After Brian spoke at the gala event, I wanted to thank Brian for all he had done and thank him for all he does to help combat the myth that any of us need to be anything more than who we are. I wanted desperately to let him know, that the same way he is my child, there is a chance that I, might be him.

"And don't you worry, you'll find yourself. Follow your heart and nothing el..." ~ Simple Man, Lynyrd Skynyrd



Model: Madison Cee

📷 Paul Lowell

Emily Fernandez

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS RAMIREZ







Describe yourself in three words.

Outgoing, funny, compassionate

What got you into modeling?

I started modeling when I was 18; I drove up to Chicago for a Playboy audition. When I got a call back from them wanting to shoot my eyes lite up and ever since then I started modeling.

Tell us your experience shooting with David Sutton.

Shooting with David Sutton was amazing. He is so creative and wonderful to work with. I felt really comfortable and we just had fun. One of my favorite modeling pictures came from a shoot with David Sutton.

Do you have a funny story about a shoot?

Once I was shooting naked in a field that was by a country road and every time a car came I had to run and duck. It made for a fun shoot!

What's your favorite car?

Chevy pickup truck (black)

Your favorite super hero?

Does Ozzy Osbourne count? haha

What's your all-time favorite movie which you would watch again and again and never get tired of?

Detroit Rock City

What's your favorite sport?

Skiing!

Most embarrassing situation you have been in?

One time when I was bartending I bent over to get a beer and my pants ripped right on my ass, we were so busy I wasn't able to do anything about it for awhile, I'm sure my patrons were pleased, I was embarrassed!

Most unusual place you had sex?

While I was driving a boat

If there is a famous model who inspired you, who would that be?

Elle Macpherson, she is sexy!



What is your favorite leisure activity?

Listening to records with my dog Chewy and cat Ozzy

Foods you crave?

Any Mexican food with avocado!

What do you day dream about?

Kayaking!

What do you do to relax?

Diffuse lavender oils in my house and paint

Favorite place to visit?

Visiting my best friend in San Diego, CA

Ideal vacation spot?

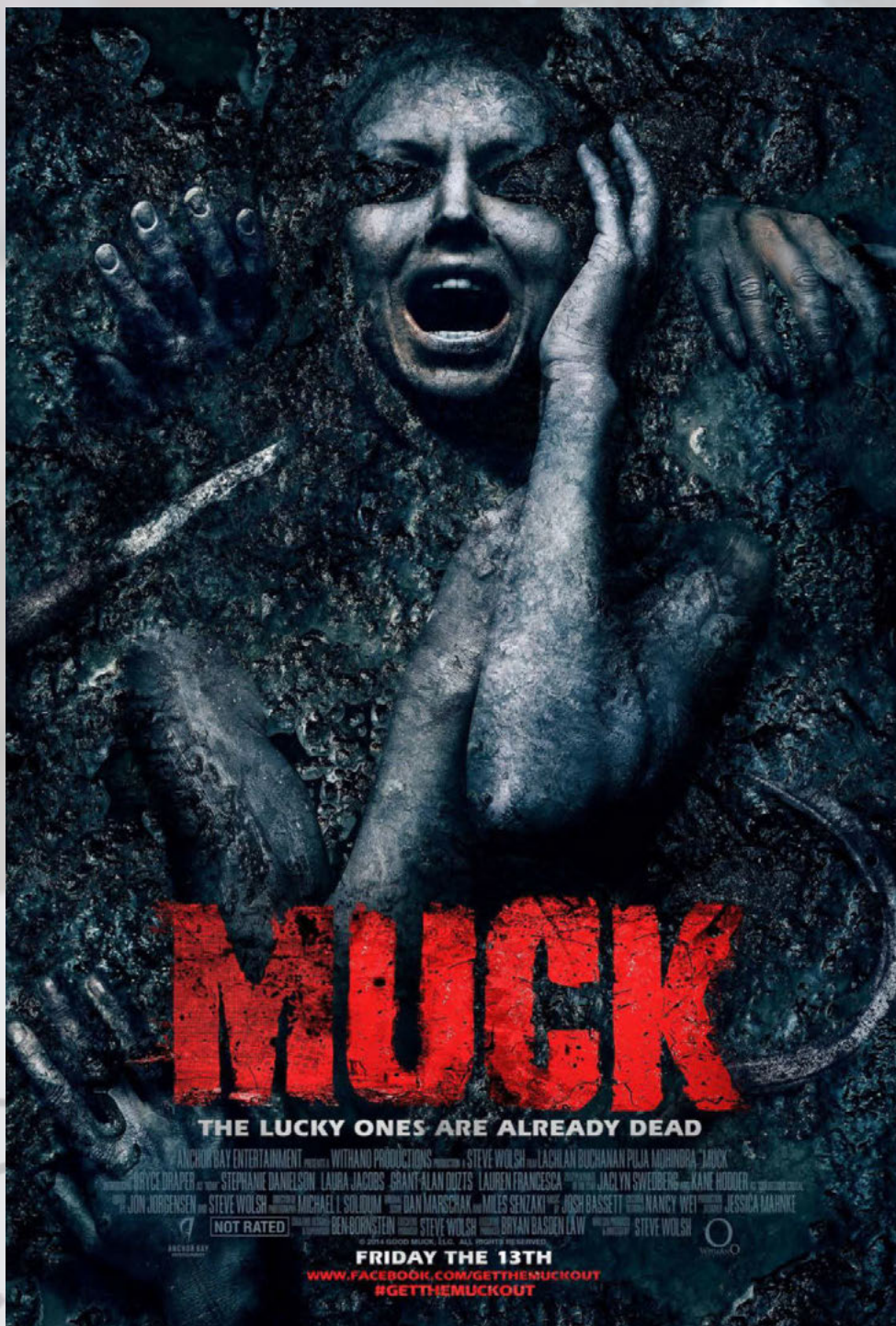
Camping anywhere! I love camping so much it's the most relaxing vacation there is for me. I want to go camping in a cabin in the Red Woods!





THE MASTERY OF MUCK

MUCK: WET DIRT OR MUD, SOLID WASTE FROM FARM ANIMALS, SOMETHING THAT IS DISGUSTING . . . OH AN A NEW HORROR MOVIE WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY STEVE WOLSH



By Michelle 'X'

Are you one of those people who decide whether or not you see a movie based on the reviews? Usually when I read a bad movie review, it makes me want to see the movie more. That's partly because anytime I've listened to those who do reviews, I find myself disagreeing with the reviewer for one reason or another. There have been times I've gone to movies to see a film because it has gotten stellar reviews and about half way through the movie I found myself wondering just what it is I am missing, as I fought back falling asleep in my chair. It's not to say that reviewers are always wrong but they are merely expressing their own opinion and even those who review movies for a living, do not always agree on whether a movie should get two upward thumbs.

So what do the reviews say about the movie *Muck*? Put it this way, if you are going to pre-judge the movie based solely on the reviews, you might end up taking a pass. That's because some of those who have reviewed the movie have not held back when it comes to throwing *Muck* under the bus. Of course, if you are going to think for yourself you may want to give this movie a chance. Remember *Muck* is a horror movie. According to Steve Wolsh, the writer, director and producer of the movie, horror movies do not usually get rave reviews. Plus, Mr. Wolsh would like you to consider what went in to the making of *Muck* before you ultimately decide on what its final grade should be.

The day I sat down to interview Steve Wolsh, I was sitting in my ho-

tel room at *Lakeway Resort and Spa* in Austin, Texas. I was in Austin to interview a PR guy from Kawasaki Motor Corps. USA, about his racing career and talk about my project *Ride Insane*, which with any luck might one day be a movie. I had chosen the hotel so I could be a bit secluded since the Texas Moto GP was taking place that weekend, and I wanted to be away from the crowds. When I checked in I was told to press number five in the elevator to get to my room even though my room was actually on the fourth floor. Apparently, the resort is built on a slope and even though I would be pressing number five, I was really on four. Of course, my room being on a different floor than that which I was supposed to press in the elevator was confusing at first but once the reasoning behind it was explained, it made perfect sense. That's not unlike how Steve Wolsh things people will see his movie beginning in the middle. Sure it's confusing at first but after you understand that the first movie is the middle of the trilogy, it makes perfect sense. My hotel in Austin happened to be the perfect setting. Not only for my interview but also for a horror movie. The hotel is nestled in the middle of nowhere. The views are magnificent and my room overlooked a magnificent lake where visitors could take in 'Texas sailing.'

Once settled in my room, I began to do my homework to read up on what went in to the making of the *Muck*. I also searched the dictionary because I wanted to know exactly what 'muck' is. I thought I knew but wanted to be sure. I happen to love the title of the movie. I think the title alone ought to allow for five stars. There is so much you can do with that title. After all it rhymes with luck, and it also rhymes with . . . I wondered if it was a slang word, or was muck actually going to be a word that has a dictionary definition. As I did a Google search for the dictionary definition of the term I found myself staring outside my window gazing at the water, wondering if there was any muck out there. Within moments I was thinking about the irony of my being in a remote location as I was about to talk with a director of a horror movie. There I was in this beautiful setting, and soon I realized that any minute I might fall victim to *Muck*. I am not kidding when I tell you that as soon as the thunder and lightning decided to join me, I locked my balcony door and closed the drapes.

So what is muck? Well, according to the online dictionary definition I found, muck is *a highly organic, dark or black soil, that is less than 50 percent combustible, often used as manure* [dictionary.reference.com]. Good thing I locked the door!

Don't you love horror movies? Are they not supposed to be enter-

taining and make your imagination run wild? Surely nobody would want to be overtaken by *Muck*. That is unless of course you are going to be stuck in the muck with a Playmate of the Year. So I guess Steve Wolsh knows a little something about how to make *Muck* worthwhile? Let's be honest. Steve Wolsh has made something to build on. He has turned muck into something more than soil. He has made it into a movie. If you're a betting man, you might want to take the 'Over' as to whether or not Wolsh's first movie becomes a cult classic. It's got marketing masterpiece written all over it. If you do not believe me, take another look at the poster. In my opinion,

the poster is pure genius. It has marketing and merchandise written all over it, and is a symbol of accomplishment.

Regardless of the reviews, *MUCK* is a movie and it was imagined and created by one man who left his promising career to follow his dream to make movies. That alone, in my opinion, is an amazing accomplishment.

Steve is proud of

his project, and there is more *Muck* to come. Yes, he understands that the movie might be a bit confusing to some. The beginning is actually the middle, but this is intentional. Of course, you do not know everything there is to know about the characters in the movie, you are supposed to. You are supposed to wonder and want to know more. It's all part of the mastery behind *Muck*.

Muck is a horror film that was written, directed and produced by Steve Wolsh. Mr. Wolsh holds a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing and Management from Georgetown University. He left a career in finance to follow his dream to make movies, and he has accomplished this dream, with *Muck*. What follows is a sample of the Q&A from my interview with Steve Wolsh.

MX: Hi Steve. Thanks so much for taking time to talk with me about your movie. Let me just ask if you have a certain time limit for this call.

SW: I've got some time.

MX: I asked about your window of time, because I have inter-



viewed other movie directors before. I know how busy you are, and I just want to make sure I get the questions I would most like to ask in, before I run out of time.

SW: I am happy to talk about the movie. I am also happy to address some of the reviews.

MX: Well, to tell you the truth in the past I have interviewed a director who would not take an interview unless the reporter was going to give the movie a 'thumbs up' which I found to be so interesting. I have also been involved with interviews where a movie director told me that he had only ten minutes, and failed to answer every single question I asked. He basically just wanted to tell me what he expected me to write. I do not work that way.

SW: I have time and I am happy to answer your questions. Have you seen the movie?

MX: Actually, I have not seen the movie yet. However, after seeing the reviews I want to.

SW: Some of the reviews are pretty scathing, huh? That's not unusual for horror movies. I think sometimes those reviewers are not taking in to account all that went in to the making of the movie. For example, it's not as though I would have given a larger role to Kane Hodder but that costs money. This movie was made on a budget of \$250K, which is unheard of in Hollywood. What's amazing, and what's missing from the reviews is that *Muck* exists. It's a movie. It was released on Friday the 13th, and there is more to come. This is only the beginning.

MX: To be honest with you, I think it's brilliant. I've not seen the movie but I don't need to see it to know that the poster has merchandising written all over it. The title alone is brilliant!

SW: Thank you. I agree and it's all planned that way. A lot of people told me that it would be impossible to make this movie. I never once thought it was impossible. When I was younger I faced obstacles like injuries where I was told I might not walk again. That is an obstacle that was something to have concern over. Not having enough money is not something I was ever concerned about. People told me I would never have enough money to make this movie. I did it. I cannot undo it, it's done. Would I do something differently? Wouldn't we all do something differently, if we were given the chance to redo our first of anything? Yet,

I am proud of the movie.

As far as the reviews, I thought it through and I do not think the reviewers take any of what went into the making of the movie into consideration. It's not as though it's going to matter though. The way some reviewers have singled out the movie, and shared that it's a movie filled with scantily clad pretty girls and gore is not hurting the movie any. In fact, I should thank them. If anything the reviews are going to cause people to want to see it even more.

MX: What would you say is your best feeling when you think about the movie?

SW: The fact that we are talking about it. I set out to make a movie and I did that. I was up against the odds and I won. The movie was made. Everything else is gravy. I already made money. That's a bonus. For me the real accomplishment is seeing that it was completed. It's a movie, and people are talking about it. Think about it. I opened up the *LA Times*, and I was reading a review about my movie. It really does not matter what was said. Also, it's not as though I want people to think all the reviews are bad. There are some good reviews out there. Especially when it came to the music. Sometimes I go into the Facebook horror movie chats and I see the debates on whether *Muck* is destined to be a cult classic. I have even seen it compared to *Pulp Fiction*.

MX: What about the music?

SW: I personally selected all the songs for the soundtrack. The reviewers are having a hard time saying anything bad about the scores. Each character has its own instrument. I am especially happy with the way the music accomplishment.

MX: So you do not think any of those reviews that threw *Muck* under the bus might hurt the movie?

SW: No I do not think so. Like I said, I do not think that anyone is giving me a free hall pass for some of the constraints I was up against. This was my directorial debut. It was my first movie. A lot of directors have begun their careers with horror movies. Usually horror movies do not make the grade. Of course, they are not necessarily supposed to be all about plot. If someone writes a review that the movie is a bout gore, it's not like that's a bad thing. It's what horror movies are supposed to be. The more talk about scant plots and scant clothes, the more

likely people might tune in. Let's face it, a review that brings up that the movie stars a Playmate of the year, and was debuted at the Playboy Mansion is not necessarily hurting the movie.

MX: Tell me a little bit about what went into the filming. How important were the elements? Is it true that the cast was in Cape Cod, and endured bugs, and critters sort of like those survivor series?

SW: Yes, that's true. We were in Cape Cod. The storyline takes place at night. It's a matter of hours. We filmed everything at night. The movie stars Lachlan Buchanan, Jaclyn Swedberg who was Playboy Playmate of the Year 2012, Stephanie Danielson, Lauren Francesca and Kane Hodder. All were terrific!

MX: What can you tell me about the prequel?

SW: A 'Kickstarter' campaign was launched so that the \$250K could be raised to make the prequel, *Muck: Feast of Saint Patrick*. We not only reached the goal but also exceeded it. Horror film fans want more *Muck*!

My time spent on the phone with Steve Wolsh was refreshing. He was respectful, real, and funny. He spoke candidly about what he felt was wrong with Hollywood, and he was mindful of the tasks ahead of him. He seemed excited about his next project, and fueled by the reviews that might have been less than fair with his debut movie. He was not taking anything personally. He is a man who knows his worth. He is also a man who knows it was wise to hold on to the rights of *Muck*, for the day when may come when *Muck* merchandise makes everyone's 'wish list.'

Soon after I hung up the gentleman from Kawasaki was in the lobby. After a brief exchange, we were told in order to get to the restaurant we would have to walk down the slope. We were in Hill Country. As we made our way, I smiled and said, "You should have brought your bike, just in case we come across any muck. At least then we might have a chance."



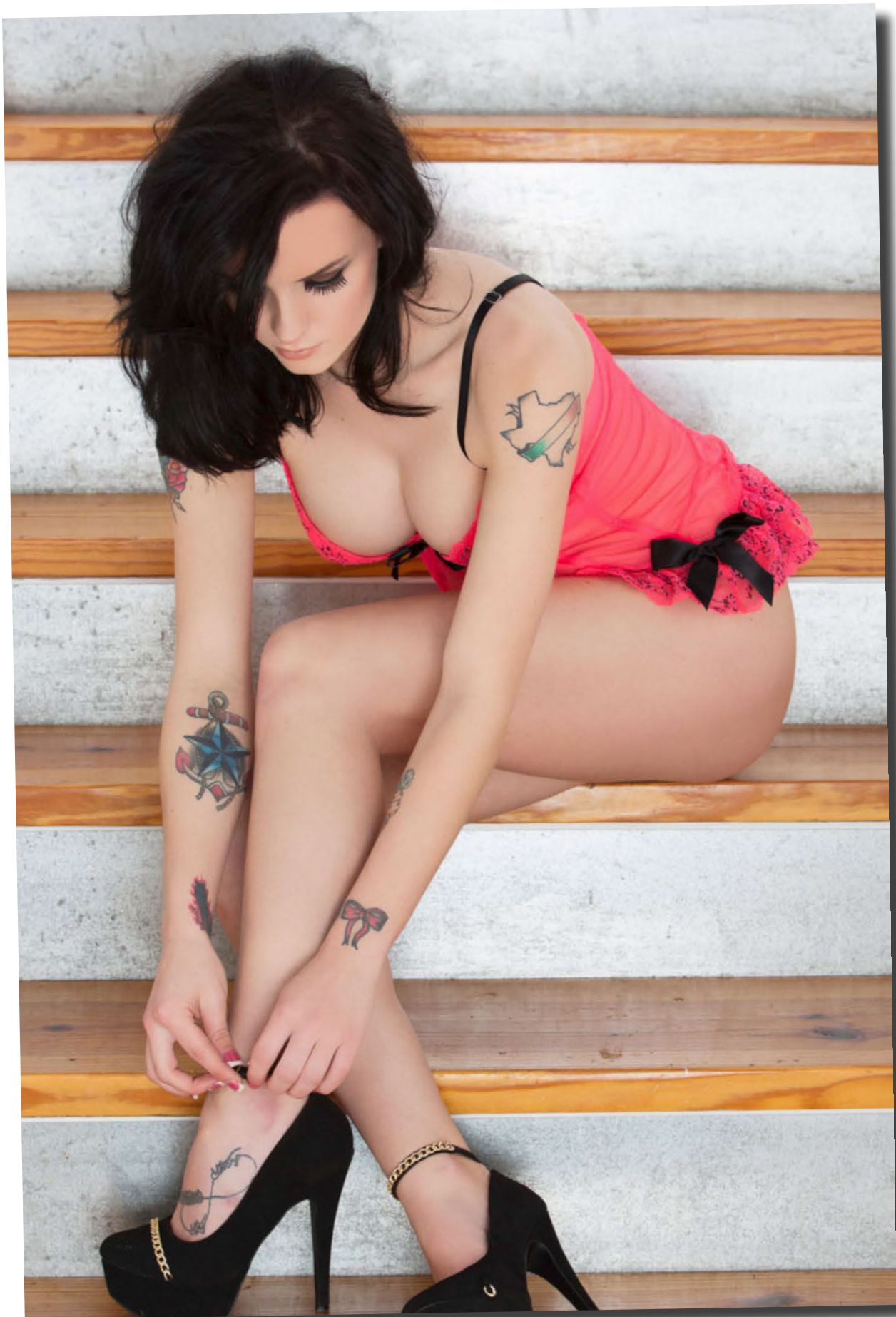


Kayla

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
MICHELLE KATIUSSA







BEYOND THE VERTICAL HORIZON

AN INTERVIEW WITH MATT SCANNELL

Interview by Michelle Sports X | 📷 Joel Flora

This summer Vertical Horizon will be heading out on tour. Among the songs to make the playlist will be hits from their most recent album, which was released in 2013, *Echoes from the Underground*. In addition, the band will also include those amazing hits from years gone by, which will make for a fantastic musical experience for all.

Did you ever happen upon something at a garage sale, or a rummage sale and end up finding ‘the perfect find?’ This happened to me, a few years ago, while at the library, I happened to come across a table of books and CDs that were for sale. Perhaps it was some sort of book fair or something, I am not sure exactly, but I remember being able to pay a certain price for everything that I was able to fit in one bag. So I gathered some books and rummaged through the CDs. Call me old fashioned, but I’m still one to purchase CDs and I love looking for vinyl at quaint shops. I can still recall how on that day finding a CD, by Vertical Horizon, and not hesitating to place it inside my bag. The band has forever been a favorite of mine, and one that had managed to place itself in the category of reliable. By that I mean, even though, I know I’m going to love anything they do, because I’ve loved everything they’ve ever done. There was no question in my mind

that I would love the CD, and although I’d not recognized the album, or the songs, odds were that I was going to love the music. Some bands are like that they never let you down. Little did I know, that upon choosing to purchase this particular CD, my mind would be forever altered, in a way that I would venture to describe as providing a bridge if you will, perhaps even a passport that allowed entrance deep within my soul. The songs on this CD were that mesmerizing, and became some of my favorite songs to date.

The CD I purchased managed to make it into a set of six that I placed inside the CD holder, soon after I made the purchase. It’s difficult for me to find the words to convey just how much a part of me, these songs became. Yet, I related to so many of the songs, and found myself identifying with them in a way that caused me to grow, learn, and question. It is quite possible that I have now listened to the songs on this CD more than a million times, never once having grown tired of hearing them play. The magnificence of the music, the intelligence of the song writing, and the in depth psychology behind the lyrics are all part of Vertical Horizon’s album, *Running on Ice*. Forever in my mind, the words of the songs, “Sunrays and Saturdays” and “Call it Even,” are filed alongside “Heart in

Hand.” Truly, this CD became one of my favorite albums of all time, and Vertical Horizon, among my favorite bands.

Vertical Horizon is perhaps best known for the band’s breakthrough song, “Everything You Want,” as well as, songs like “Best I Ever Had” and “You’re a God,” which was featured in what just happens to be one of my favorite movies, Bruce Almighty, more so than the songs on the what became one of my favorite albums. In my opinion, listening to the band’s earlier music can allow one to develop an appreciation for the lexicon of this band, as well as, gain a meaningful connection with the band’s lead front man/ songwriter, Matt Scannell.

Back when I purchased that *Running on Ice*, a few years back, surely I had no way of knowing how deeply connected to the songs I would be, nor upon listening to it, did I ever expect to be in a position to speak with the man responsible for writing what would become some of my most favored songs. Never in a million years did I imagine I would be able to express my gratitude for the music that left such an imprint on my soul, directly to the man responsible for writing them.

What an honor it was for me to be able to interview Matt Scannell, the man behind

the music of Vertical Horizon. It was a pleasure to talk with him about the origin of the band, the band's journey thus far, and the upcoming summer tour, which will be in full bloom by the time this article, is published.

On the day I spoke with Matt, he had just arrived back in Los Angeles, after playing at the Preakness Stakes. Our call was set for 2 pm EST, 11 am PST. Before we spoke, I spent time reading about Matt, exploring what others had asked him during their interviews, and further absorbing the band's music. The more I listened, the more I learned, and the more I wanted to know. There is something so peaceful about the music, something in balance, like the moon and the sun. If asked one word to describe the music, I believe I would chose the word describe 'complete'.

For reasons that are unknown to me, I chose to ask Matt seven questions for this interview. If pressed for an explanation to come up why I chose to stick to seven questions, I think it might have something to do with simplicity, synergy, seven sins and seven virtues. Something about the number seven kept weighing on my mind, and for some reason there was something telling me, to stick to seven. So that's what I did. Truly, I'm unsure why, yet there was something about the number seven, that seemed so suitable. I learned afterwards that many associate the number seven with perfection, and completeness. Makes sense!





What follows are highlights from the Q&A of my interview with Matt Scannell, the extraordinary musical mind behind the band, Vertical Horizon:

MS: Hi, this is Matt.

MSX: Hi, Matt, it's Michelle. Thank you so much for taking time to speak with me and participate in this interview. Before we begin, I just wanted to thank you for the shout out the other night during your interview with Ken Thomson, on @ SportSXRradio.

MS: You're welcome. It was a great conversation. I'm glad we were able to connect. Thank you.

MSX: It's my pleasure. I have decided to make this interview really simple, and ask just seven questions. I have no idea why, but for some reason that number seemed to stick with me.

[Q1] The first question I would like to ask involves the origin of the name of the band. I would like to know how it came to be.

MS: Sure, okay. Well, let's see, thinking back we wanted to create something that was different, and thought provoking. We wanted to stay away from easy names, and back then in the early nineties there were so many great names. For example, *Soundgarden*, was one of those names that would just strike you. We wanted something that would stick. Vertical Horizon seemed to be complex and still simple. It had meaning and purpose. Throughout the years we sort of evolved to where we became the name, and the name also became a big part of our identity.

What I've learned over time, is that even simple names, can become extraordinarily complex, once the band's sound is attached to them. It's as though the music sort of becomes that which defines the band. In hindsight, *Vertical Horizon* became everything we wanted it to be.

Naming the band, turned out to be, even though it required a lot of thought, one of the simplest things to do. When compared to everything else we've done,

as far as investing so much of one's life into the band, playing music, writing songs, and singing the music can make naming the band seem so simple, even though it was anything but at the time.

MSX: Well, for what it's worth, I love the name. I also understand what you mean that the band's identity has defined the name.

[Q2] My second question has to do with interpretation of your lyrics. I read somewhere that you said it means a lot to you to know that people can identify or connect with your music, and that it matters that your fans are able to connect with your songs. Come to think of it, the other night, during your interview with Ken, you spoke about how one person thought the song 'You're a God' was about a romantic relationship, and you clarified it's meaning, shared that it was not about a romantic relationship, and explained that it is more or less about how you handed power over to someone other than an intimate partner at a certain time in your life.

So my question is, does it bother you when people misinterpret you're original meaning of a song and/or when your fans do not realize what it was that inspired the lyrics?

MS: Not at all, but I do know that some songwriters will not share about what it was that may have inspired their writing a certain song simply because they do not wish to disappoint their fans. That can happen sometimes. For me, I see my songs, as art and just like if we were standing in a museum, and we were looking at a painting we might both walk away with a different interpretations of the art. It's not as though there is any sort of decoder ring given out and we both might have two very different interpretations of the art. Yet it does not mean that we are wrong to interpret differently. What inspires art, and the artist's original source of inspiration, while of interest, should not be anything that lends rigidity toward the appreciation of the work. That's how I see it. It does not frustrate me to learn someone has a different connection to my songs, than what might have been the

original meaning or source of inspiration for my writing.

[Q3] MSX: My third question is about the dissemination of music. What do you think of the dissemination of music as respects to how we become aware of new songs, or albums compared to the way it was when you were younger?

MS: Learning about new music has become almost a solitary experience, as opposed to the group experience that it was when I was young. We used to go to the record store with friends. We would save up our money individually and look to buy a new album. When we would hang out together, the one friend who had the new album would bring it to where we were, and it was more or less a group thing. We would listen together.

Nowadays, it's as though it is more of a solo thing, and it's not the same. It can be really hard now to know what new music is being released? Social media can be good for that. We use social media to connect with our fans and share about our music. We also have our website, VerticalHorizon.com, which is constantly updated.

I guess it's all just beginning to unfold with social media playing a major role, and fans can share with other fans and connect when new music is released but it's like it was when we would wait for a favorite song to come on the radio, and go buy a new album. Years ago, going to the record store to buy new music, was a special time, and I hold on to those memories, and cherish those times.

[Q4] MSX: My fourth question is do you have a favorite number?

MS: Wow, that's interesting. No, I don't have a favorite number. I suppose it could be, because I tend to like to stay away from anything that is superstitious. I mean it's not like I want to piss off the number thirteen. By the way, let me ask you, do you have a favorite number?

MSX: HA! Yes, I do and it's not thirteen. So now, I guess I'm the one who might be in trouble. I just hope good old number thirteen, is not reading this

write-up.

[Q5] Okay my fifth question; do you remember your first album?

MS: Yes, I do. It was *Pyromania*, by Def Leppard. I won a book report contest in the seventh grade. Ms. Tsang, my teacher at the time, gave me a gift certificate to *Strawberries Records*, and I went and bought the album. I must have played it at least a million times.

MSX: That's so cool. I have seen Def Leppard in concert, with Journey. Great band!

[Q6] My sixth question, since you are the band's singer and songwriter, as well as instrumental by playing guitar and keyboards, what if you had prioritize all three? How would you place singer, songwriting, and playing a musical instrument, if you could only keep just one?

MS: That's probably something that has changed for me over time. When I was younger, being a guitarist and playing guitar would have likely been what I identified with above all else. I was not born to sing. I mean I have friends who can just go out there and belt out songs, but for me I had to work at it. I took vocal lessons and I have a vocal coach. I sang by default really, because there were times, when there wasn't anyone that was able to commit. Clearly, it was a lot of practice on my part, but above all I think I see myself as a songwriter, if I had to let go of two of the three, I would not let go of the ability to write songs. As long as I could always write songs, I would be good. Someone else could sing them, and someone else could play them, but for me it's writing them that would be so vital to want to hold on to. *[I have to admit I loved this answer, because I so love with the lyrics. However, thankfully, Matt does not have to let go of either, because I cannot imagine him not being there to sing them. One would never know, he was not born with an innate ability to sing, but I'll take his word for it on that, but I would have never guessed that.]*

[Q7] MSX: My seventh question has to do with now, and what you would like to share with your fans. If you could tell your fans anything you want in this

interview, what would it be?

MS: "Thank you." Most especially to those fans that helped us to create the most recent album, *Echoes from the Underground*, which was released in 2013 and fully funded by our fans. The support of our fans has been phenomenal throughout the years, and it's all we can do to express gratitude to our fans for their continued support of the band.

[Q7] MSX: My next seventh question will be specific to the album, *Echoes from the Underground*. I'm interested to know if you have a favorite song from the album. *[By now I realized just how difficult it must be to cut off songs you want to include on an album, as I exceeded my seven question limit that I had set for myself, but there was so much to learn.]*

MS: This album is truly special partly because it includes tracks where I collaborated with Richard Marx, and Neal Peart, who have over the years become dear friends of mine, both of whom are such amazing talents. In addition, as I said, being that this album is completely funded by our fans, it's extra special. It's going to be fun heading out this summer, to connect with the fans and do live shows. I think if I had to choose a favorite song, on that album, it might be *Lovestruck* . . .

[Q7 Part III] MSX: Speaking of *Lovestruck*, I am again in awe of your songwriting ability. I notice that you tend to include stars and nighttime in many of your songs. I think I might be approaching number eight, but at the risk of going over, do you purposely include the stars in your songs? I mean it almost seems like a theme, at times, and I'm curious if that's intentional?

MS: I do. I tend to write mostly at night, and when I think about it, imagine looking up into the night. It is then, when one looks up into the stars, that we tend to realize just how infinite the universe truly is, and how small it is that we truly are.

As my time with Matt began to come to a close, I was mindful just how amazing it was that I was blessed with the opportunity to interview him. That as small as we are, and as far away as we were, that we connected through Twitter.

How amazing that is, still blows my mind.

It was such a joy to speak with Matt. During the time we spoke, he mentioned that when he met Neil Peart, the drummer from the phenomenal band, RUSH, he was so pleased to find that someone he had looked up to, and in a sense considered somewhat of a hero when he was younger, was someone with whom he developed such deep respect for after he got to know him personally. He found it refreshing to learn that someone could be everything he had expected or would have wanted. After speaking with Matt, even though it was for a relatively short time, I felt I could relate somewhat to how he felt after he found Neal to be such a good person and all he might have hoped he would be.

Although, it's impossible for me to know Matt Scannell, after just one conversation, the man he seems to be is the man I would have imagined the writer of the songs, which make up such an integral part of my life now, to be. Humble, thoughtful, articulate, intelligent, all come to mind, when I think of the man I imagined the songwriter and singer of Vertical Horizon, would be.

I will always hold on to the songs from my CD that I picked up at the library that day, *Running on Ice*, and keep them among my most favorite. I will also cherish becoming connected with the newer songs, from the most recent album *Echoes from the Underground*. So far I think "Consolation" might be my favorite, but give me time, as I'm also loving, "Song for Someone."

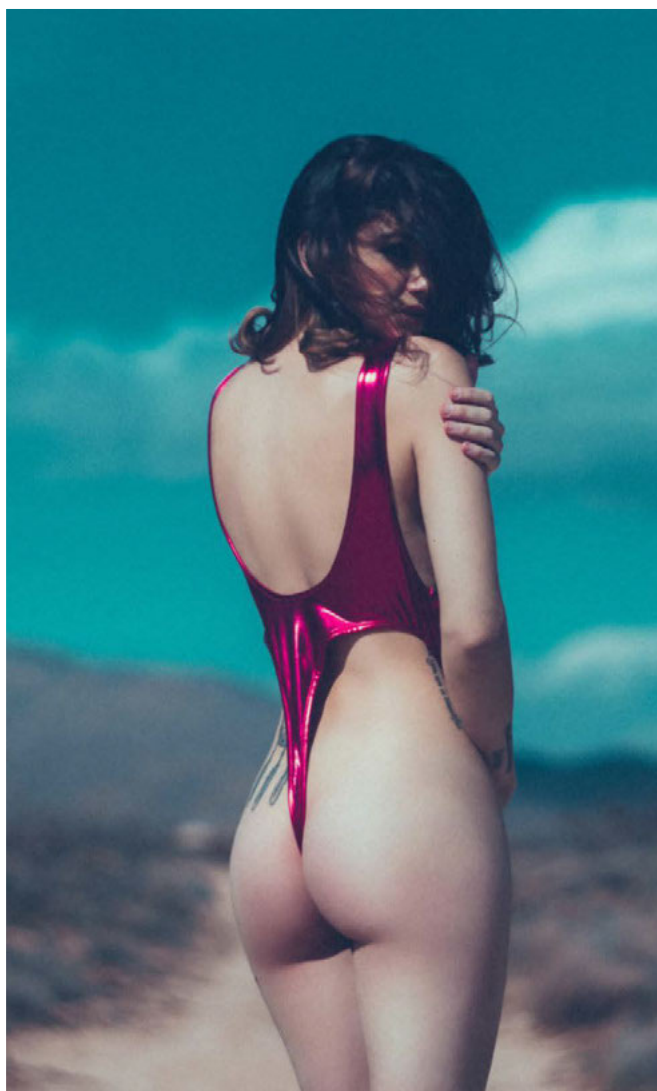
If you've got time this summer, you might want take in a live performance. Vertical Horizon is scheduled to make several stops across the United States. Perhaps I'll see you out there, somewhere down the road, among the stars, beyond the horizon, among the many fans that have an insatiable appetite for superior music.

For information fans can check tour dates here: <http://www.verticalhorizon.com/live/>



Jordyn Subacheva

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
MIKE TANG



Describe yourself in three words.

If I had to describe myself in three words it would be hardworking, adventurous, and loyal. I have always tried to see the beauty in everything and stay positive to the best of my ability.

What got you into modeling?

When I was a little girl, I was the ugly duckling. I adored all the beautiful and strong women on *Americans Next Top Model*. I told myself that one day I was going to achieve my dreams. Most models weren't just a pretty face, they struggled and achieved and that's inspirational.

Tell us about your experience shooting with Mike Tang?

Meeting and shooting with Mike Tang was a great opportunity and honor. He is a fantastic photographer and has so much passion for his work. He always made me feel comfortable and challenged me to reach my full potential. I loved that he played reggae music when we do shoot.

Funny story about a shoot?

The first time I shot with Mike Tang, we did a train photo shoot. I was hanging off the side of the train when all the sudden it started moving. I heard Mike yelling, "Jump off!" I immediately jumped off (in giant heels) It was very unexpected and exciting, but we all started laughing and it was a great time.

What's your favorite car?

My longboard, easiest way to get around Los Angeles traffic.

Your favorite super hero?

My favorite super hero is Cat Women. She is super sexy and confident.

What's your all-time favorite movie which you would watch again and again and never get tired of?

My favorite movie of all time, hands down would be *Dazed and Confused*, directed by Richard Linklater. This is a classic. I love the generation of teenagers just having fun in high school, being free spirits, and enjoying life to the fullest. I find myself wishing I could have been a part of that. Plus I love quoting funny lines that almost everyone can recognize.





What's your favorite sport?

Bedroom Olympics ;)

Most embarrassing situation you have been in?

My life is one big blur of embarrassing moments, but the first thought that comes to mind is anytime I have to give directions. Don't ever let me give you directions, we would end up in the middle of nowhere. I am horrible at getting around places I am unfamiliar with and get embarrassed when I get people lost on my account.

Most unusual place you had sex? Did you like it or regret it?

I'm definitely an adventurous person when it comes to sex. I like the feeling of having sex someplace where nobody would expect. You can let your imagination run wild. If you think it, I've most likely done it. ;)

If there is a famous model who inspired you, who would that be?

Tina Louise. Not only is she stunning, but I love her style and the way she represents herself.

What is your favorite leisure activity?

Playing with my dog Simba. He's an amazing 1yr old pit bull & pointer mix, and the love of my life.

Foods you crave?

Food is my favorite! Being that I lived in New York most of my life, I crave NY pizza.

What do you day dream about?

I find myself day dreaming about the possibilities of the future. There are so many things I want to experience in this lifetime. After being adopted from Vladivostok Russia at age six, I am extremely lucky to live in a country where there is so much opportunity.

What do you do to relax?

Listen and making music, cooking, and cuddling up in bed watching Netflix.

Favorite place to visit?

When I went to Jamaica, it was the most lucid, relaxing place. I loved that music was playing everywhere, the food was unique, people were welcoming and the ocean was like nothing I had ever experienced before.

Ideal vacation spot?

Anywhere new. I love to explore.





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